

AND



Rockers Curt Smith, left, and Roland Orzaba

## 'Sideways' tops Golden Globe nomination list

Actor Paul Giamatti



Page 3

© SS 2004

1

平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可 訂刊例し1冊1張及び2月26日休刊  
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号

50¢

## Communists: U.S. troops should not try any covert ops during relief effort

Page 7

**Back page**

**Center:** Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw just two touchdown passes, but that was enough to beat the Texans and clinch the AFC South title. Indianapolis was one of four teams to earn division titles on Sunday. Top right: T.J. Duckett scores the third of his four touchdowns in the Colts' 27-10 victory over the Texans. Bottom right: Browns' rookie running back Giovani Bernard scores on a 10-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Brian Hoyer. Bottom left: Steelers free safety Chris Hope (28) is greeted by teammates Russell Stountains (33) and Troy Palamalu (43) after Hope's interception sealed Pittsburgh's victory over the New York Jets and the AFC North title. Bottom left: Bengals linebacker Brian Stimpert grabs the face mask of Corey Dillon, who became the first to go to playoffs by scoring the Patriots beat his former team, the New England Patriots. Bottom right: Philadelphia in the postseason, with the remaining slots still to be filled. Full game coverage Pages 34-38





STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown NewspaperCOMING  
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Up close with  
Natalie Portman

Scene on Sunday

Holiday cookies  
hit sweet spotDon't miss a  
single issue.

For home delivery, call DSN  
225-4505 (Japan)  
721-7140 (Korea)  
645-2010 (Okinawa)

## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	26
American Roundup.....	20-21
Classified.....	27-29
Comics.....	24-26
Crossword.....	25
Faces.....	17
Horoscope.....	24
Letters.....	22
Opinion.....	23
Sports.....	31-40
TV listings.....	18
Weather.....	19
Your Money.....	12

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**IRA disarmament:** Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams on Monday insisted the IRA would not allow photographs of its disarmament as the British and Irish governments tried to clear the way for a new Northern Ireland peace package. "The photographs are dead and gone and buried," said Adams, emerging from Prime Minister Tony Blair's office in London. "I do not think there is any possibility of resurrecting that issue."

In Dublin, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said a new formula must be found.

"We have to try to find some other way," Ahern said, declining to suggest alternatives.

**North Korea nuclear talks:** North Korea is re-examining its participation in six-nation talks over its nuclear programs because of what it alleged were U.S. efforts to bring down the regime in Pyongyang, North Korea's official news agency said Monday.

Three rounds of six-nation talks aimed at persuading North Koreans to halt weapons development have taken place since last year, but without a breakthrough. North Korea boycotted a fourth round that was scheduled for September and analysts say Pyongyang probably was holding out, betting on a change in the White House.

According to the state-run news agency, KCNA, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced Washington for its "smear campaign" and accused the Bush administration of trying to topple the North's reclusive regime run by leader Kim Jong Il.

**Filipino film star dies:** Philippine action film star and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., who refused to concede May's presidential election, died early Tuesday after suffering a stroke and slipping into a coma, his doctor said.

Poe, 65, died at St. Luke's Hospital, where he was rushed late Saturday after complaining of dizziness while dining and drinking with friends. He later slipped into a coma as doctors tried to use drugs to clear a blood clot in his brain, and his condition gradually worsened Monday, Poe's doctor, Abdias Aquino, told reporters.

I am very sad to announce that Mr. FPJ passed away at 12:01 a.m. despite aggressive resuscitative measures," Aquino, a neurologist, said.



**Alaska freighter accident:** The U.S. Coast Guard lowers a salvage team to a freighter that broke in two pieces when it ran aground off Alaska's coast, seen as a key step toward cleaning up a destructive, oily mess stretching for miles. A helicopter with a three-person salvage team took off from nearby Dutch Harbor on Sunday afternoon to undertake the short flight to the 738-foot Selendang Ayu, wrecked Wednesday in rough seas. Strong winds and waves had kept authorities from boarding either half of the ship.

**Tawain presidential shooting:** Taiwanese investigators said on Monday they've detained five suspects allegedly involved in making and selling the bullets used in the bizarre shooting that lightly injured the president on the eve of his re-election.

The arrests could be the biggest break in an investigation that has dragged on for months without producing many solid leads. The lack of progress has fed popular conspiracy theories that President Chen Shui-bian staged the March 19 attack to win last-minute sympathy voters.

The five suspects, who were involved with an illegal weapons workshop, were detained late last month in Tainan, the southern city where the president and Vice President Annette Lu were shot while parading in an open Jeep, said Wang Shen-jong, chief prosecutor in Tainan.

**G-8 violence:** A judge on Monday ordered 28 police officers to stand trial for their alleged brutality in a raid against anti-globalization protesters during the 2001 Group of Eight summit in Genoa, court officials said.

The start of the trial was set for April 6, according to the office of Genoa Judge Daniela Faraggi, who made the ruling.

The pre-dawn raid on the Diaz school in Genoa, which housed many protesters, was one of the most controversial episodes of the July 2001 summit. Some protesters said they were attacked as they slept.

Police said they were acting on a tip that violent demonstrators were hiding in the school.

**Canada same-sex marriages:** Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin was cool to the idea of a national referendum on gay marriage and said Parliament should decide the issue.

Canada's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that gay marriage was constitutional, a landmark opinion allowing the federal government to call on Parliament to legalize same-sex unions nationwide.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has said he wants a national referendum on gay marriage.

**Nuclear watchdog post:** Australia's foreign minister declined to comment Monday on a newspaper report that he had turned down a U.S. request to challenge International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei for his job.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the administration of President Bush wants Alexander Downer to take over the role because it regards ElBaradei as too soft on Iran's suspected nuclear program.

The newspaper also said that Washington bugged the phone of ElBaradei, an Egyptian diplomat who has headed the atomic agency since 1997, scrutinizing his calls in search of reasons to call for his ouster.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Zama ITT

Fun Tours

## It's Sapporo Snow Festival Time!

Experience one of the world's largest snow exhibitions --- only an hour and half from Tokyo!

See the astonishingly huge and beautiful replicas of famous architecture displayed on 10 blocks of Odori Park and at two other near by sites. A different theme is featured every year. You'll find yourself mesmerized by the sheer beauty of the ice and the warm friendliness of Sapporo. A variety of entertainment and food stalls at the sites make Sapporo an even more charming place to visit this winter!

Book your trip with us! Packages still available!

Choose from  
3 packages:

Pre-snow festival tour: February 4 - 6  
Opening ceremony tour: February 5 - 7  
Deluxe snow festival tour: February 6 - 8

Packages include bus transportation from Camp Zama, airfare, accommodations at ANA hotel, airport transfer, sightseeing tour, daily breakfast and a Mongolian BBQ lunch.

ITT Office Mailing Address:  
International Tours Office  
USAG-J, Unit 45005  
APO AF 96343-5005

Japanese Address:  
ITT, Camp Zama  
Bldg. 533  
Zama-shi  
Kanagawa-ken 228-0097

PHONE: 263-4050/5273 (military)  
0462-54-8896  
07-1740 (commercial)

FAX: 263-7507 (military)  
0462-55-0356 (commercial)  
Answering machine  
263-8662

E-MAIL: travel@zama.itt.com

STAR

Best of  
PacificVoted Best  
Travel Agent  
2003 & 2004



# Volunteers sought to act as tax preparers

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

**SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan** — Americans throughout the Pacific region may be thinking taxes this time of year, but soon income tax season will be in full stride.

At Sasebo Naval Base and other Pacific facilities, officials are seeking individuals in their communities willing to serve as tax preparers for the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, or VITA.

"At Navy bases throughout the world, it is run by the Navy Legal Services Office, and right now all we're trying to do is get the word out that we need volunteers,"

**"Through this program last year, more than 64,000 federal returns were prepared and electronically filed, saving Marines and their families over \$9.9 million in tax preparation and filing fees, an average savings of nearly \$120 per Marine."**

Gen. Michael W. Hagee

Marine Corps commandant

said Lt. Mary Thompson, an NLSO attorney in Sasebo.

The VITA program is designed to facilitate tax preparation and electronic tax filing for all service members, Department of Defense civilians and status-of-forces-agreement employees.

Internal Revenue Service representatives will train volunteers at various Pacific bases next month.

The volunteers will prepare tax returns through the tax season, free of charge.

"At Navy bases, this contributes to our overall readiness because sailors do not have to worry about getting their taxes done. We do it for them for free," Thompson said.

Sasebo is to hold the VITA program training from Jan. 25 until Jan. 28. The IRS requires the vol-

unteers to attend the training session, Thompson said.

In Sasebo and at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, the VITA program offices open for business on Jan. 31, and other bases will do much the same as their volunteers complete the training from IRS representatives, Thompson said.

"This program continues to be a major quality-of-life benefit en-

joyed by our military community," stated Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Marine Corps commandant, in a news report last week.

"Through this program last year, more than 64,000 federal returns were prepared and electronically filed, saving Marines and their families over \$9.9 million in tax preparation and filing fees, an average savings of nearly \$120 per Marine," the general stated.

For more information or to volunteer in Sasebo, call DSN 252-3347.

For more information on the Iwakuni VITA program, call DSN 253-4398 or DSN 253-5591.

Those who wish to volunteer at their respective bases should contact their VITA office.

The tax deadline for Americans overseas is June 15.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: [tylger@strips.osd.mil](mailto:tylger@strips.osd.mil)

## All clear for a landing



MARVIN THOMPSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Shaun A. Weltzin signals for a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter to land on the flight deck of the USS Fort McHenry during flight operations supporting humanitarian efforts to the Philippines. The ship is operating off the east coast of Luzon island in support of the United States' humanitarian assistance efforts after a series of storms devastated the area. See related story on Page 7.**

## Guam Christmas drop on hold

Bad weather causes Air Force to delay mission until the new year

Stars and Stripes

Pacific islanders in Micronesia and the Northern Marianas will have to wait until after the holidays for the annual rite of presents falling from the sky.

A tropical storm forced Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to postpone its 52nd annual Christmas drop until after the first of the year, said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Capenos.

The humanitarian mission was to start Sunday and end Wednesday but organizers decided to delay it due to a typhoon watch Sunday. Typhoon Tais, downgraded to a tropical storm Sunday night, was moving quickly south of Guam, the Pacific Daily News reported Monday.

"It's unfortunate the weather caused us to postpone this but we will ensure that this goes off on the New Year," Capenos said Monday.

The drop is conducted with help from the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Yokota's 36th Airlift Squadron owns and operates the C-130 cargo planes that drop bundles of donated goods to remote islands throughout Micronesia and Northern Marianas, north and south of Guam in the western Pacific Ocean.

In years past, items collected from local businesses and community members on Guam have included fishing nets, construction materials, canned goods, clothing, toys, school supplies, powdered milk and rice.

Donations usually are sealed in plastic inside cardboard boxes and hooked to small parachutes.

## Hip hoopsters to play U.S. military teams in Pacific

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

**MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan** — Referees will take to the court, but the score won't matter when the Harlem Ambassadors face off against military all-stars.

Dubbed a younger, hipper version of the Harlem Globetrotters, the Ambassadors are bringing their wacky, albeit skillful, hoops tricks to several Japan military bases this week, where they're to play against military basketball teams.

The appearance is part of the Harlem Ambassadors' "Around the World Tour," which has carried the team to 39 states and 19 foreign countries.

While in Japan, they're to perform at Misawa Air Base on Wednesday, Sasebo Naval Base on Saturday and Kadena Air Base on Sunday. The squad also was to visit Yokosuka Naval Base on Tuesday.

The Japan shops are free to all military ID cardholders. At Misawa, the Ambassadors take on Misawa's varsity basketball team at 6 p.m. in the Potter Fitness Center's main gymnasium, marking the second year in a row for the show.

"It's something different every year," said Tech. Sgt. Jerry Castaldi, the fitness center's special events director. "It's not even really a game against our varsity team because the rules kind of go out the window. They can pretty much do anything with the basketball: spin it on their fingers for forever and a life, and they're phe-

nominal with dribbling. It's really a great family hour."

The Ambassadors do not present a choreographed show, according to a Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation news release, as the team likes to face opponents who do not know what to expect. The audience can expect to see high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball handling and comedy routines led by "Ladé Majic," the only woman coach/player of a men's professional basketball team, according to a team news release.

Because a large crowd is expected at Misawa, Castaldi said, arriving early is advised; the gym's doors will open at 5 p.m. Ambassadors usually sign autographs after the show, he said.

At Sasebo, the Ambassadors are to play the Sasebo Eagles, a squad of Fleet Activities Sasebo's finest players, at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Main Base Fleet Fitness Center.

Seating will be first-come, first-served with doors opening at 5 p.m. The Ambassadors also plan a youth clinic for 5- to 18-year-olds in the Har Village Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

The Ambassadors are to play at 6 p.m. Sunday at Kadena's Potter Fitness Center against an all-star Kadena team.

For more information about the Ambassadors, visit the team's Web site at [www.harlemambassadors.com](http://www.harlemambassadors.com).

Greg Tyler and David Allen contributed to this report. E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: [svan@strips.osd.mil](mailto:svan@strips.osd.mil)

*The audience can expect to see high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball handling and comedy routines led by "Ladé Majic."*



# Depths at home struggle to meet war's demand

By JONATHAN WEISMAN  
The Washington Post

TEXARKANA, Texas — In muddy gravel lots, along weedy railroad tracks and in grassy fields, the flotam of war is washing up at a sprawling Army-run repair post. Piled 10 to 20 feet high are road graders, river boats, forklifts, coils of tank track, piles of road wheels and Humvees by the score, doors pocked with shrapnel scars, windows filled with bullet holes or faded white by explosive heat, their fenders gashed by rocket-propelled grenades, their crews' names still etched on the windshields.

When Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was confronted by a soldier in Kuwait recently about why troops in Iraq had to scrounge for parts, he might have pointed to the Red River Army Depot on the outskirts of Texarkana for the answer. Here, in ill-adorned open-air factories, bustling hives of workers struggle through budget limits and a burgeoning repair load to keep the troops equipped.

## Length, breadth of Iraq operations take a toll on funding and materiel resources

Twenty-nine months after U.S. forces entered Iraq, the Defense Department is only now coming to terms with the equipment shortages caused by the prolonged fighting there. The Pentagon has prepared an unprecedented emergency spending plan totaling nearly \$100 billion — as much as \$30 billion more than expected as recently as October — say senior defense officials and congressional budget aides. About \$14 billion of that would go to repairing, replacing and upgrading an increasingly frayed arsenal.

"There's no lack of work and only more on the horizon," sighed Dennis Lewis, chief of the business office at the 26-square-mile depot. "There's no end in sight."

The full implications and costs of the original Iraq war plan are starting to come into focus at such places as Red River. Expecta-

tions for a short, easy war — a conflict from which the Army's supply systems could have easily rebounded — have given way to the reality of hundreds of battered Humvees cast aside here for want of money and time to repair them.

As the conflict continues, the country's battered war materiel is making its way back for repair and so is the bill. The emergency spending request that President Bush will send to Congress early next year will include billions of dollars to "reset the force," in military parlance. The Army alone has requested \$9.2 billion to repair, replace and upgrade equipment, congressional and Pentagon officials said. The Marine Corps may seek as much as \$5 billion more. Those figures dwarf the "reset" requests in two previous war supplemental spending

ills. In fiscal 2004, which ended Sept. 30, the military spent \$2.2 billion to repair tanks, trucks and other equipment for land forces, said Amy Delasco, a defense budget specialist at the Congressional Research Service.

Earlier requests for force reset funding were so small because the military had planned for a shorter war, said Col. Curtis McCoy, the Army budget officer in charge of planning for equipment repair and replacement. By now, the Army expected to have fewer than 20,000 troops in Iraq, not the 138,000 currently there, he said.

"If [the war] had held the course as we thought it would have, we'd have a division left there, and this equipment would have all been home awhile ago," McCoy said. "That didn't happen, and there are going to be a lot more bills."

Instead, it will be a scramble just to keep the troops in the field equipped. Depots are confronting four to five times more equipment wear than the Army anticipated, McCoy said.

## Seven Marines killed in Anbar province, 13 dead in Green Zone bombing

By PAUL GARWOOD  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. Marines lost seven of their own Sunday in fighting in the Anbar province, the worst day for the Marines since October.

Meanwhile, an al-Qaida-linked suicide bomber blew up his vehicle Monday near cars waiting to enter the Green Zone, home to the U.S. Embassy and Iraq's interim government, killing 13 Iraqis in the first anniversary of Saddam Hussein's capture.

The seven Marines died in action Sunday in the volatile Anbar province west of Baghdad, the deadliest day for the Marines since eight of their servicemen were killed by a car bomb Oct. 30 outside Fallujah.

The deaths brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

It was unclear where in Anbar the Marines were killed, but the province includes the turbulent cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, the latter of which witnessed a bloody weekend offensive last month to uproot extremist Islamic militants.

A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives-packed car near a checkpoint leading into central Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, killing 13 Iraqis and wounding 15 others in an attack for which Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group claimed credit. No U.S. troops were injured.

A U.S. soldier with the 1st Corps Support Command was killed and another wounded Monday in a vehicle accident near a military base in Baghdad 50 miles north of Baghdad. It was unclear what caused the accident.

On Sunday, American jets dropped 10 precision-guided missiles on rebel positions in Fallujah after insurgents fought running battles with coalition forces.

"We are still running into some

of these die-hard insurgents that have either come back into the city or have been laying low," spokesman Lt. Lyle Gilbert said. "As we are bringing in contractors to help with the reconstruction of Fallujah, this (fighting) slows the process down."

Further west in Ramadi, 10 explosions were heard early Monday.

No details were immediately available on what caused them nor if there were casualties. The blasts came a day after insurgents and Marines traded artillery fire that killed one woman.

A U.S. Stryker brigade patrol was attacked by a car bomb in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, on Monday, wounding two American soldiers. U.S. troops and gunmen fought gun battles after the blast.

In Tarmiyah, on Baghdad's northern outskirts, three more U.S. troops were wounded by a car bomb blast that wrecked two Humvees, pieces of which were raised into the air by jubilant Iraqi men who danced around their charred hulks and a large crater blown into the road by the explosion.



A U.S. soldier secures the area Monday after a car bomb attack in Baghdad. A suicide bomber killed 13 people in the attack near the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad housing the interim government and U.S. Embassy.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,289 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19, Po-

land, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,151 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. Marine was killed Sunday in action in Anbar province.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in Baghdad's northern suburbs.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D. Leach, 39, Rock Hill, S.C., and Army 1st Lt. Andrew C. Shields, 25, Campbell, S.C.

Both soldiers were killed Thursday in a helicopter accident in Mosul, Iraq, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment, South Carolina National Guard, Columbia, S.C.

## Newspaper: Members of Guard more likely to die

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Unlike in past wars, National Guard soldiers are about one-third more likely to be killed in Iraq than their full-time counterparts on active duty, a USA Today analysis of Pentagon statistics shows.

According to figures furnished by the military branches, the active Army has sent about 250,000 soldiers to Iraq, and 622 have been killed. That works out to one death for every 402 soldiers who have deployed, USA Today reported in its Monday editions.

About 37,000 Army Guard soldiers have been sent to Iraq and 140 have died there — one fatality for every 264 soldiers who have served, or about a 35 percent higher death rate.

There are several reasons for the greater death rates among so-called part-time soldiers. The Pentagon has called up thousands of part-time troops for tours of a year or more in Iraq. Some of the most dangerous missions, including driving convoys and guarding bases and other facilities, frequently are assigned to Guard and reserve troops.

Active-duty casualties have spiked during major battles such as the attack on Baghdad, largely carried out by Army and Marine troops. But such engagements have been rare since President Bush declared major combat over in May 2003.

The elevated death rates among part-time soldiers are a significant shift from the past, USA Today reported. During most wars in the last century, the full-time military took most of the casualties, and their troops were much more likely to die in battle than Guardsmen and reservists.



## Iraq rebuilding defended

**BAGHDAD** — A top USAID official acknowledged Monday that Iraqis have reasons to be impatient with the pace of reconstruction since the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, but he said \$4.3 billion had been earmarked for projects and promised improvement despite the insurgency.

Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, detailed several projects under way in Iraq, including construction of 13 water-treatment plants and a major new power station, as well as hundreds of schools, firehouses, clinics and police stations.

But he insisted the most important work in Iraq isn't necessarily visible, including building institutions, getting civil society groups off the ground and doing prevention and maintenance.

"The most important work we do is not the physical infrastructure, even though I know all of you like to report on it," Natsios said at a news conference inside the Green Zone, the highly fortified area home to the U.S. Embassy and other government offices in Baghdad.

## CIA presence denied

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** — Pakistani Monday said there was no evidence that al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden is hiding in the country, and denied it had allowed CIA agents to set up bases along its border to hunt the terror mastermind.

Pakistani and American generals agree that the trail for the al-Qaida leader has gone cold, more than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said bin Laden had not been seen since he was shot and scooped at reports he might be hiding in Chitral, in the country's searctic north.

"Osama bin Laden has not been sighted in Chitral or in any other part of Pakistan," Khan said, adding, "there are no operations being conducted by U.S. forces inside Pakistan."

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has previously acknowledged that a small number of American experts were working with Pakistani

troops in operations against al-Qaida militants.

But he has denied that U.S. forces — deployed in neighboring Afghanistan — are actively hunting bin Laden in Pakistan.

A report in Monday's New York Times, citing anonymous U.S. officials, said the CIA had set up small bases along the border in late 2003, but that the operations were being hampered by uncooperative Pakistani minders. It said the CIA had concluded bin Laden was being sheltered by the tribesmen and foreign militants in northwestern Pakistan, and that he could be aiming to launch a "spectacular" attack on the United States.

The issue is a sensitive one for Musharraf, who is under pressure at home from hard-liners opposed to his strong ties with Washington.

## Alleged prisoner abuse

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Human Rights Watch said Monday it had uncovered two more cases of prisoners dying in American custody in Afghanistan, and it accused the Bush administration of "dragging its feet" on investigations that could have prevented the abuse of prisoners in Iraq.

In an open letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the New York-based rights group said it had new evidence of "an alleged murder of a detainee by four U.S. military personnel" in Afghanistan in 2002. More recently, it said a man picked up on Sept. 24, 2004, died the next day at an American base, but it did not specify the cause of death.

U.S. military officials in Afghanistan said no immediate comment on the alleged new cases highlighted in the letter.

But Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. John Skinner said defense officials want to "exonerate lengths to investigate any credible allegations of detainee abuse."

"We've looked at detention operations from A to Z," he said, without specifically discussing the cases raised by Human Rights Watch.

Military investigators are already examining the deaths of several prisoners in U.S. custody here, but have released few of their findings.

From The Associated Press

## 6 Gis court-martialed for taking vehicles in Kuwait

BY JOHN MCCARTHY

The Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — At a time when some U.S. troops in Iraq are complaining they have to scrounge for equipment, six Ohio-based reservists were court-martialed for taking Army vehicles abandoned in Kuwait by other units so they could carry out their own unit's mission to Iraq.

The soldiers say they needed the vehicles, and parts stripped from one, to deliver fuel to Iraq, but their former battalion commander said Sunday the troops should at least have returned the vehicles to their original units.

Members of the 656th Transportation Company based in Springfield, west of Columbus, said they needed the equipment to deliver fuel that was needed by U.S. forces in Iraq for everything from helicopters to tanks.

## Year after Saddam was captured, trial prospects remain uncertain

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — In the year since he was captured and hustled away to a secret location, Saddam Hussein has taken up gardening, undergone a hernia operation and written poetry that one visitor describes as "rubbish."

What he has not done is meet with any of the 20 lawyers claiming to represent him. And with the country in the grips of an insurgency, predicting when Iraq's most famous prisoner will be tried is no easier now than it was on the day he was pulled from his hiding spot in a spider hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

When Saddam first appeared before an Iraqi court in July, some officials predicted a swift trial. Ever since, they have said October, November or December. Now, they expect it no earlier than the beginning of 2006, Iraq's National Security Adviser Mouwakkil al-Rubaie said.

"This is going to be probably the trial of the century and we have to get it right," al-Rubaie said. "We can't suddenly try him and sentence him to either life in prison or whatever, execute him 100 times as some people want to do."

American officials with the Department of Justice's Regime Crimes Liaison Office are advising the Iraqi Special Tribunal on the process of bringing Saddam to trial. The Americans paid the tribunal's budget of \$75 million for 2004-2005. But with elections approaching Jan. 30, the Iraqi government is in flux and likely may delay a trial for another year, until a new constitution is drafted and another round of elections is held in December 2005.

Trainers also face a dearth of qualified Iraqi prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges. If proper attorneys are found, they assume a new kind of risk — threats from the guerrillas, believed to be

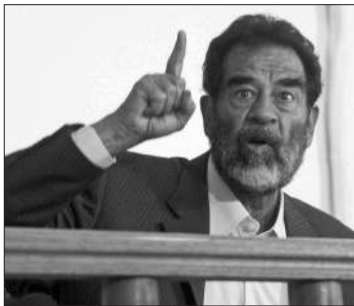
The reservists took two tractor-trailers and stripped parts from a five-ton truck that had been abandoned in Kuwait by other units that had already moved into Iraq, one of the reservists, Darrell Birt of Columbus, said Sunday.

Birt, a former chief warrant officer, and the others were charged with theft, destruction of Army property and conspiracy to cover up their crimes.

Birt said he and two others pleaded guilty and the other three were convicted. All received six-month sentences.

"Nobody ever reported these trucks stolen. The deal was, when you are moving, if it was going to take more than 30 minutes to fix it, you left it," said Birt, who was released in November.

"I'm a Christian man and I can't ignore what we did, but it was justified to get us in the fight and to sustain the fight."



In July, Saddam Hussein appeared in a courtroom at Camp Victory, at a former palace on the outskirts of Baghdad. In the year since Saddam was captured and hustled away to a secret location, officials say the work of gathering evidence, documents, mass grave sites, and testimony from victims continues away from the public eye.

testimony from Muslims continues away from the public eye.

Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers, said days after Saddam was captured. "But it takes time for people to accept the changes."

Since then, the guerrillas have continued exacting a bloody toll against U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies.

Saddam first appeared before the court July 1, without a lawyer. He was presented with seven preliminary charges that included gassing thousands of Kurds in 1988, the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the suppression of 1991 revolts by Kurds and Shiites, the murders of religious and political leaders and the mass displacement of Kurds in the 1980s.

Eleven other defendants were arraigned with him.

Associated Press reporter Jamal Halaby in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

## Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語訳もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

REACHING THE MILITARY AND JAPAN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Yokota Christian Academy M-F

**Sunday**  
Early Service 0830  
Sunday School 1000  
Morning Service 1100  
Evening Service 1800

**Monday**  
Faith Bible Institute 1830

**Tuesday**  
Soul Winning & Visitation 1830

**Wednesday**  
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg 1900

Patch & Pee Wee Clubs 1900

**Friday**  
Awana Club 1900

**Monthly**  
Mens Prayer Breakfast 1st Sat

Ladies Meeting 1st Sat

CH\_\_CH

What is missing?

0425-52-7254

www.yokotabaptistchurch.org

At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.



# Coming to your **YOKOTA** **AAFES BX**

## **Yokota Midnight Madness**

**Doors close at 8 pm and  
Re-open at 9pm to midnight**

If you missed the first one,  
don't miss the last one of the year!!!

Mark your calendars.

**Incredible Sales, Giveaways Galore!!!  
Grand Prize Giveaway 42" Plasma TV  
Don't miss it!!!**

**Yokota Midnight Madness  
Coming Saturday, December 18**

**AAFES**  
aafes.com...open all the time!

Consumer  
Electronics  
**PRIZE**  
2004



**We save you money...  
everyday!**



## IN THE WORLD

# Rebels warn U.S. troops against covert ops

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Communist rebels warned hundreds of U.S. servicemen on a relief mission in the storm-ravaged northeastern Philippines to stick to humanitarian work, saying they were straying too close to rebel-held areas.

Last week, about 600 Marines and soldiers started transporting food and evacuees from a relief mission in the province of Quizon, near Manila, and Clark Air Base north of the capital.

The U.S. Embassy said in a statement that Filipino troops were helping U.S. servicemen secure helicopter landing

**"It would be wise for American troops to refrain from undertaking military operations in the area including intelligence-related activities."**

Gregorio Rosal

Communist Party of the Philippines spokesman

zones and transport supplies.

"They are dangerously close to guerrilla zones, and it would be prudent for them to confine themselves to areas where actual relief operations are under way in order to avoid unnecessary encounters," Communist Party of the Philippines spokesman

Gregorio Rosal said in a statement.

"It would be wise for American troops to refrain from undertaking military operations in the area including intelligence-related activities," he warned.

Rosal did not say that the Americans were involved in any covert operations,

and there was no indication that the mission was anything but humanitarian.

He also promised that the New People's Army rebels, the armed wing of the Communist Party, would not target either Filipino or American soldiers while they provide aid to local residents.

The communist insurgency has raged for 35 years and both the party and the NPA appear on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations. Shortly after a rainstorm hit the region Nov. 29, suspected communist rebels killed 10 and wounded six soldiers on a mission to help flood victims, the military said. The rebels denied that the troops were sent to assist victims.

## Mortar attack on U.S. base injures 3 Afghan soldiers

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents rained mortar rounds on a U.S. base in Afghanistan, wounding three Afghan government soldiers, while American and Afghan officials announced Monday the arrests of 14 suspected fighters.

Eleven mortar rounds fell near the base in southeastern Pakhtika province in the past 24 hours, a U.S. military spokesman said. The wounded soldiers from the new U.S.-trained Afghan National Army were evacuated to a field hospital at a larger U.S. base in neighboring Khost province and were in stable condition, said Maj. Mark McCann.

No American soldiers were reported hurt in the incident.

McCann said eight Taliban members were detained in a raid about a week ago in Char Cheno district of Central Uruzgan province after American forces received intelligence on their whereabouts.

One was believed to be a brother of the former Taliban governor of Kandahar, the southern city that was the headline regime's capital. McCann declined to give his name.

Afghan troops seized another six suspected Taliban in the same province on Saturday, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Zaher Mohammed Azimi said. Two were Taliban commanders called Mullah Chulam Nahim and Abdul Qadir, he said.

Azimi also reported the wounding of six Afghan civilians in an explosion Saturday near Asadabad, in eastern Kunar province. Three were taken to the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, where they were recovering after treatment, he said.

The cause of the explosion was unclear, though the area has seen a spate of roadside bombings aimed at Afghan and U.S. security forces as well as clashes between rival Afghan factions.



KYODO NEWS/AP

Japan's foreign minister, Nobutaka Machimura, appears before the lower house of Japan's parliament on Friday to call for sanctions against North Korea for the abduction of 13 Japanese citizens.

## Japan delaying action on N. Korea sanctions

BY CHISAKI WATANABE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday called North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals decades ago "unjust and abominable" acts, as public pressure mounted on him to use economic sanctions to punish Pyongyang for the kidnappings.

Tokyo said it won't immediately punish North Korea with sanctions, despite calls to do so after forensic tests last week showed that human remains Pyongyang claimed belonged to a Japanese kidnapping victim turned out to belong to someone else.

Koizumi said he was aware of voters' demands for tougher action against Pyongyang.

"It's only natural, considering North Korea's unjust and abominable acts," Koizumi told reporters. Asked how Tokyo would respond, he said: "We will have to decide what's appropriate."

North Korea has admitted kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 80s, but it claims eight of the victims are dead. Japan is skeptical, and has pressed Pyongyang to fully investigate the cases and provide proof of the deaths.

Koizumi's administration so far has resisted calls for punishment, arguing that retribution against the secretive state could make further progress impossible and complicate international talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said Japan would decide on action after officials have examined documents, human remains and other materials provided by North Korea last month.

"At this point, there are no such plans," Hosoda said when asked by reporters if Tokyo would impose sanctions.

"We plan to analyze the material by the end of the year, and then we will convey our official views to North Korea," Hosoda added.

"This is our policy up to now." On Friday, a group of lawmakers from the ruling party and a lower house committee passed separate resolutions calling for a freeze in humanitarian aid to North Korea and a threat of economic sanctions if progress is not made.

A poll by the Mainichi newspaper conducted Friday and Saturday showed that 72 percent of voters backed sanctions amid frustration over the abduction issue.

## Officials probing Philippine bombing

BY TERESA CEROJANA

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities said Monday that they have identified several suspects but made no arrests as they probed a possible business feud behind a bombing that killed at least 15 people in a southern Philippine market packed with Christmas shoppers.

Both Muslim and communist rebels operate in General Santos, about 620 miles south of Manila, where a homemade bomb went off in the market on Sunday. At least 70 people were wounded, and some were in critical condition.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

National police chief Edgar Aglipay said investigators were looking into a dispute between two groups wrangling over a stall in the market, but added: "This is something we still have to prove. We are not discounting that other groups may have done this."

Army Col. Medardo Geslani said earlier that investigators have so far found "no direct link" to the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, the regional terror network. Jamah Islamiyah, the communist New People's Army or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Philippines' main Muslim separatist group.

He said several suspects were identified, but no arrests were made.

"We are validating leads, and maybe later today there will be something clearer," Geslani said. "We have suspects but we can't divulge [their identities] right now."

General Santos, a major southern city, had not been bombed since a shopping mall blast killed 14 people in 2002. Several Muslim militants have been charged with multiple murders over the attack.

### Christian Ministries Far East

Pastor Charles A. Hall



"...where the SPIRIT of the LORD is, there is LIBERTY."

2 Corinthians 3:17

CMFE Weekly Schedule:

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 am & 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Christian Studies Class - 6:30 pm  
Friday Prayer & Evangelistic Service - 6:30 pm

Location: Sakaya Building on ROUTE 16 (4th floor)

\* 3 min walk from Yokosuka Base back gate.

\* Public parking deck on left-side of building.

DAIEI Mall

Yokosuka Naval Base (Main Gate)

Route 16

7-11 Store (Back Gate)

SAKAYA Bldg

- \* Pass the 7-11 Store (on left).
- \* Sakaya Bldg is on the opposite end of that block facing Rt 16.
- \* Use side-street door after 4pm.



Just in time for Christmas!

**Panasonic**  
ideas for life



## Panasonic DVD Recorder

Dual Voltage DMR-E55PX

REG Price : \$299

**DEC 17- 23 ONLY**

**Special Price: \$269** Save \$30

# Upgrade your VCR to an easy-to-use DVD recorder

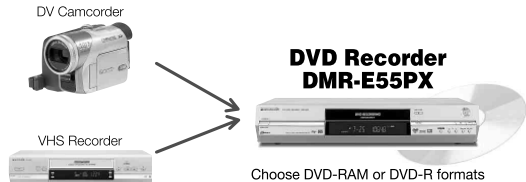
- ☒ No overwriting mistakes!  
It automatically finds blank space for you
- ☒ Select what you want to watch easily with the thumbnail display
- ☒ Record up to 16-hours  
(Up to 8 hour on single sided discs)

### New Direct Navigator — Thumbnails Display —



Find desired programs fast. Just press the Direct Navigator button to display thumbnails of all the programs on a disc, then select the one you want and press Enter. It's that easy.

### Easy Data Transfer and Editing



Take the video you recorded on VHS or with your DV video camcorder and burn them to disc with the DVD recorder. You just need to hook up your equipment with standard cable. Then you can use the Direct Navigator to create playlists and more!

This and other great Panasonic products are available at select AAFES stores.  
Buy it online at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) Key number S549J.

**AAFES**  
aafes.com...open all the time!

Consumer  
Electronics  
Power  
2004





# Germany terror trials hampered by lax laws

## Convictions unlikely, nation turns to deporting alleged members of cell that planned 9/11 attacks

BY CRAIG WHITLOCK

The Washington Post

HAMBURG, Germany — After three years of failing to hold anyone accountable for the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Germany is preparing to expel accused members of the Hamburg-based cell that led the hijackings to countries with more aggressive records of prosecuting terrorism.

Although two criminal trials are still pending, German officials, legal experts and lawyers involved in the cases said the massive investigation into the al-Qaida cell has been stymied by this country's lax anti-terrorism laws, unfavorable judicial rulings and a lack of evidence, making it increasingly doubtful that anyone here will be convicted.

The state of affairs is apparent at the judicial complex in Hamburg, where one defendant, Moumin Motassadeq, is being tried on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization. Despite the gravity of the charges, he is a free man, walking alone from his home to the century-old courthouse each morning, unguarded.

Motassadeq was convicted of the charges last year, making him the only person anywhere found guilty of playing a role in the Sept. 11 plot to attack targets in the United States. But he was

freed in April, after an appellate court rejected the verdict as based on flimsy evidence and other legal deficiencies.

A retrial began in August and is scheduled to last at least two more months, but the basis of the prosecution's case has been undermined by its own witnesses, including one whom the presiding judge accused of "fantasizing" during his testimony. Attorneys for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks have filed a civil suit against Motassadeq, in part to prevent him from collecting as much as \$50,000 in compensation from the German government for wrongful prosecution if he is acquitted.

In another sign of the widespread doubts surrounding the investigation, officials in Hamburg filed papers in July to deport Motassadeq and a second suspect, Abdelghani Mzoudi, to their native Morocco, a pre-emptive measure in case they are found not guilty or receive a light sentence.

Bernard Ruediger Sonnen, a law professor at the University of Hamburg, said German officials want to minimize any political embarrassment that would result from a failure by kicking the defendants out of the country as quickly as possible.

"It would be an affront to the U.S. population to acquit them," Sonnen said. "The German public is also asking: Why are the judges making it so difficult? Why can't

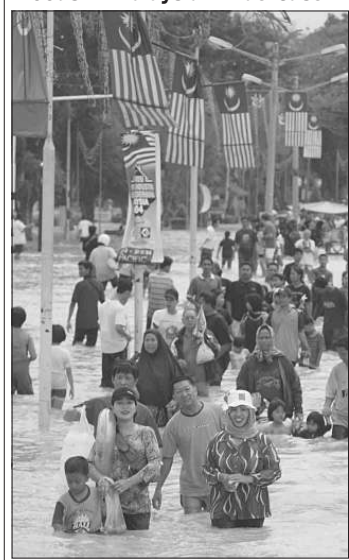
we convict them? That's the huge problem that Germany now faces, and that's why Germany would be very happy to deport them to Morocco to rid themselves of this problem."

German authorities are trying to extradite to Spain another alleged member of the Hamburg cell, Mamoun Darkazani, a Syrian-born German national. He has been indicted in Spain for allegedly playing a supporting role in the Sept. 11 attacks. He has been listed as a terrorism financier by U.S. Treasury Department officials, who have accused him of being a longtime financial backer of al-Qaida and its leader, Osama bin Laden.

When it comes to dealing with Islamic radicals, Germany has some of the most tolerant laws in Europe. Before the Sept. 11 attacks, it was legal in Germany to belong to a foreign terrorist organization such as al-Qaida as long as it was not active inside the country.

German legislators have tried to counter anti-terrorism laws in recent years and have made it easier to deport immigrants for beliefs of high-ranking officers, claiming they were part of a U.S.-orchestrated smear campaign aimed at toppling the communist regime.

## Floods in Malaysia kill at least 7



AP

Local residents waded through a flooded street Monday in downtown Kota Bharu, in the eastern state of Kelantan in Malaysia. At least seven people have died and more than 15,000 made homeless in Malaysia's worst flooding in a decade, which left vast swaths of the eastern coast under water Monday. Four other people were feared dead after being washed away in fast-flowing currents, fed by an unusually severe monsoon. The waters submerged much of Kota Bharu, where medics at hospitals flooded with knee-deep water were hastily evacuating patients — some of them on gurneys with intravenous drips attached.

## N. Korea denies report

SEOUL — North Korea on Monday denied reports of mass defections of high-ranking officers, claiming they were part of a U.S.-orchestrated smear campaign aimed at toppling the communist regime.

The North said that the reports compelled it to "seriously reconsider its participation" in six-nation talks aimed at persuading it to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

The New York Times, citing an editor of South Korea's Monthly Chosun magazine, reported last month that an estimated 130 North Korean generals had defected to China in recent years.

marked the first time Israel provided details on troop deployment during the vote. "We will leave the Palestinian cities for a period of about 72 hours, that is the day before, the day of and the day after the election," Mofaz said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israeli troops should withdraw from Palestinian towns immediately to enable candidates to campaign. Israel should also lift travel bans on Palestinians and remove checkpoints, Erekat said.

## Elephants get their fill

BANGKOK, Thailand — Wild elephants in Thailand stumbled upon a feast when they found a tapica delivery truck with a flat tire, officials said Monday.

The driver, Somkan Sirisat, said he had gone for help to repair the tire Sunday night — and when he returned, he found five or six elephants surrounding his truck and devouring its contents.

The elephants left the scene after eating their fill.

From The Associated Press

## Troops withdrawal

HERZLIYA, Israel — Israeli troops will withdraw from Palestinian cities and towns for 72 hours during next month's Palestinian presidential election, the Israeli defense minister said Monday.

Monday's comments by Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz

## Faith Christian Fellowship Church

"Cultivated to Grow and Empowered to Go"

Church for all people! Come worship the Lord with us.

### REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

5:00 am - 6:00 am Morning Prayer (Daily)  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Noonday Prayer (Tues/Wed/Thur)  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Thursday Night Bible Study  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday Night Service

Please visit us at our website:

[www.fcfjapan.org](http://www.fcfjapan.org)



Route 16

Yokota Air Base Fussa Gate

Pastor James A. Jr.  
Monica Saffold

"Parking available on base near Fussa Gate for DoD ID Card holders"  
Parking for all other visitors will be made available at the church





# BEST BUYS

**ON SALE December 16 - December 29**

**\$1.59 each** *Tostitos, Lays Classic Chips and Ruffles*



**\$1.99 each**



The information on this page is authorized for commissary shoppers only. These are extra low prices on selected items available only in your commissary for a limited time. Make sure to look at the top of the page for sale dates. Sometimes, because of product distribution or locations of stores, a few of the prices on this page may not be available at the advertised price. The commissary is not responsible for errors on this page or in any commercially funded advertising. The commissary is not required to offer the prices advertised here if the price shown is in error. This advertising is not sponsored or paid for by the Defense Commissary Agency or the Department of Defense.

## “Gift of Groceries” offers unique way to celebrate the season

By Bonnie Powell  
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — Anyone can show support for military families this holiday season with a “Gift of Groceries.”

"Whether it's for a national or installation charity, families of deployed service members, or simply as a gift for your neighbor, the general public can help support military families with commissary gift certificates," said Patrick B. Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Since the program began in the fall of 2002, nearly \$5 million in commissary gift certificates has been given as gifts or donated to military families."

During the holidays in particular, gift certificates have proven to be handy for food basket programs by allowing recipients to purchase the groceries they need and prefer, rather than getting food items they might not be able to use. "And since commissaries sell food at cost, military families save an average of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit," said Nixon. "That's critical for families on a tight budget — at the holidays or any time of the year!"

The public can also donate gift certificates to worldwide organizations that assist military families such as the USO, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House Foundation. Since the "Gift of Groceries" program began, nearly \$130,000 has been donated to those specific charities.

"The commissary gift certificates are obviously appreciated and used by families staying at Fisher Houses worldwide," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications for Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses are comfort homes located near military medical facilities.

"Most donated certificates are being used to buy groceries for families staying at our homes while their loved ones recover from injuries sustained in Afghanistan or Iraq."

The "Gift of Groceries" program is made possible through a business agreement with CertifiCheques Inc. at no cost to deCA or the federal government. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> or by calling toll free 1-877-770-GIFT. The certificates can be given as gifts or donated, but only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them. A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the costs of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery.

Gift certificates, in \$25 denominations, are now available in all 273 commissaries worldwide. The availability of gift certificates in stores is intended as a customer convenience - filling the need for a last minute gift. A handling fee of \$1 per \$25 certificate offsets printing, shipping and handling costs, and only cash or check is accepted on gift certificates acquired directly through a commissary customer service office.

## WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND MAKES LACTAID?



LACTAID® REAL MILK FROM REAL COWS



One-month-old baby white rhino Sudi — "luck" in Swahili — stands next to his mother Monday in Singapore. Both Sudi and Mandela, another baby rhino born in October at the zoo and named after former South African President Nelson Mandela, weigh about 65 pounds.

AP



## Rare rhinos born in Singapore

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Endangered white rhinos have given birth to two young at the Singapore Zoo, an official said Monday.

A male rhino, named Mandela after South Africa's former president and independence leader, was born in October, said the zoo's executive director, Fannie

Lai. Another male, Sudi, was born on Nov. 11, she said.

Sudi means "luck" in the East African language of Swahili, Lai said. Each young rhino weighs about 65 pounds and is roughly 2 feet tall, she said, adding that three keepers are caring for them.

"Both baby rhinos are very ac-

tive," Lai said. "They enjoy running around the enclosure."

Ten white rhinos have been born in the zoo's breeding program. The first was Uhura, a female born in 1996 and now in a zoo in Adelaide, Australia.

White rhinos are an endangered species because of poaching, especially for their horns, used in Chinese medicine.

## Bonobo chimps face extinction in Congo

By JULIET EILPERIN  
The Washington Post

A species of pygmy chimpanzees known for using sex to manage conflict faces the possibility of going extinct, say World Wildlife Fund researchers who have been studying them in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bonobos, which are perhaps humans' closest relative and live only in Congo, were once believed to number 50,000. But a survey of Congo's 90,000-square-mile Salonga National Park conducted over the past year by the World Wildlife Fund, along with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation and the Wildlife Conservation Society, sug-



Bonobo

gests the wild bonobo population may have dwindled to 10,000.

The park is a protected area the size of the Netherlands. An analysis of one-third of the park revealed no bonobos and showed nests in just a quarter of the surveyed area. There was ample evidence of poaching and human encroachment in the park.

Bonobos, which were first identified as a species in 1929, live in matriarchal societies that prize cooperation and resolve conflicts through sex, a behavior not found in other primates. Hunters target them for meat that they eat or sell on the bush meat market.

"The world could soon lose the primate species that shares the greatest genetic connection to humans. Bonobos are fascinating creatures that are little understood," said Richard Carroll, a primate biologist who directs the fund's Central Africa program. "If humans allow our closest relatives to go extinct, we have failed as a species."



**NIGHT FLIGHT**  
Fly like the cat

# Night Flight

FAX EAST: 800-333-3333

We will give you the best offer!! JUST CALL US!!

## Christmas Special!!

### SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL 2005

4FEB-6FEB 30DAYS FROM **\$44400(\$426)** REG-FESTIVAL PLAN  
5FEB-7FEB 30DAYS FROM **\$48900(\$470)** OPENING DAY PLAN  
5FEB-8FEB 40DAYS FROM **\$61900(\$589)** 1DAY EXTRA PLAN

Air Hotel  
2 or 3 nights + Breakfast  
All included!!  
Be secure and for now!!

### JAN & EASTER HOLIDAY SPECIAL!!

<b>CAIRNS 5DAYS</b> FROM <b>\$699</b> CHILD HALF!	<b>SAIPAN 3DAYS</b> FROM <b>\$403</b> INFANT FREE!	<b>HAWAII 5DAYS</b> FROM <b>\$499</b> INFANT FREE!
---	--	--

ALL HOTEL & AIR INCLUDED. TAX NOT INCLUDED.

## 19th JAN. MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. Day

<b>BEIJING 4DAYS</b> <b>\$53000(\$509)</b>	<b>BEIJING&amp; XIAN 5DAYS</b> <b>\$69000(\$663)</b>
<b>GUILIN 5DAYS</b> <b>\$69000(\$663)</b>	<b>VIETNAM 5DAY</b> <b>\$69000(\$663)</b>

**DAY TOUR, MEALS GUIDE ALL INCLUDE!! (DEPT 15,16 & 19JAN) MIN.10 PASSENGER**

## DEC & JAN DEP. USA FARE

ROUND TRIP 1 MONTH TICKET	LOS ANGELES 24 JAN-3 FEB	USA SELECT CITY BY 15 DEC	ALL USA 10-15 DEC	ALL USA 1 CITY 10-31 JAN (35 ADVANCE)
<b>PRICE FROM</b>	FROM <b>\$39,900/CH\$35,000</b> <b>\$382/CH\$335</b>	FROM <b>\$46,000</b> <b>\$442</b>	FROM <b>\$58,000</b> <b>\$557</b>	<b>\$52,000</b> <b>\$499</b>

## DEC-JAN SPECIAL

ROUND TRIP	OKINAWA 7-31 JAN DEP 8 DAYS ADVANCE	SEOUL SUN-TUE JAN SUN-TUE	BANGKOK BY 17 DEC	HONG KONG BY 25 DEC	MANILA BY 5-31 JAN
<b>PRICE FROM</b>	FROM <b>\$28,600</b> <b>\$275</b>	FROM <b>\$23,900</b> <b>\$221</b>	FROM <b>\$39,800</b> <b>\$382</b>	FROM <b>\$38,900</b> <b>\$374</b>	FROM <b>\$39,900</b> <b>\$408</b>
O/W, ROUND TRIP	GUAM/SAIPAN ONE WAY	HAWAII ONE WAY	HAWAII BY 15 DEC	PHUKET 2-31 JAN	HO CHI MINH 2-31 JAN
<b>PRICE FROM</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$338</b>	FROM <b>\$54,000/\$41,500</b> <b>\$519/\$399</b>	FROM <b>\$42,900</b> <b>\$412</b>	FROM <b>\$42,900</b> <b>\$412</b>

## MISAWA DEP USA & ASIA ASK US AS WELL!!

BIG NEWS!! NIGHT FLIGHT OPEN ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY FOR YOU! (Open Sunday after military payday)

**WEEK DAY 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

You'd Better Ask Night Flight!! No Waiting!! We are happy to serve you immediately!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**IMPORTANT**  
\*\*\*\*\*

\* Prices may vary depending on availability and dates.  
\* Cancellation charges (DD APPL.) please confirm all details with agent of booking.  
\* Please verify all kind of booking.  
\* All rate quotes based on AIRFARE ONLY.



## IN THE STATES

## Bush names new HHS chief

BY MARK SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush chose Environmental Protection Agency chief Michael Leavitt on Monday to be secretary of Health and Human Services, filling one of the last two openings in his second-term Cabinet.

Bush praised Leavitt as a "fine executive" and "a man of great compassion." He's an ideal choice to lead one of the largest departments of the United States government.

Leavitt, Utah's governor before joining the Bush administration in late 2003, would succeed Tommy Thompson, who recently resigned. Bush also has to name a new head of the Homeland Security Department to take the place of Bernard Kerik, who abruptly withdrew his nomination Friday night, citing immigration problems with a family housekeeper.

"He himself said he should have

brought it to our attention sooner," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "Commissioner Kerik pointed out that this was a mistake."

During Monday's announcement, Leavitt, 53, thanked Bush for showing confidence in him. "I feel a real sense of understandable regret" about leaving the EPA, he said.

He said the department of Health and Human Services plays a vital part in the lives of every American.

"I look forward ... to the implementation of the Medicare prescription drug program in 2006, medical liability reform and finding ways to reduce the cost of health care," Leavitt said. "I am persuaded that we can use technology and innovation to meet our most noble aspirations and not compromise our other values that we hold so dear."

The HHS has a budget of more than \$500 billion and 67,000 employees.

## Death-sentence appeals rejected

The Supreme Court ruled Monday that a Florida death row inmate should not get a new trial even though his lawyer conceded the man's guilt without his consent. The high court also rejected an appeal from Texas death row inmate Troy Kunkle, allowing his execution to proceed, even though one justice declared that Kunkle's sentence clearly violated the Constitution.

In the Florida case, the Supreme Court voted 8-0 to set aside a Florida Supreme Court decision in favor of Joe Eton Nixon. He was convicted in the 1984 murder of a woman he met at a Tallahassee mall.

Florida prosecutors say Nixon tied Jeanne Bickner, a 38-year-old state worker, to trees with rubber cables and set her on fire.

The Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal from Kunkle, who was convicted of murdering a robbery victim nearly 20 years ago. His attorneys had argued that Kunkle's drug and alcohol abuse history was not properly considered as mitigating evidence at trial.

## Pollution cleanup lawsuits limited

The Supreme Court on Monday put restrictions on companies that want to voluntarily clean up their polluted land and sue former owners to share the costs.

The court ruled 7-2 against a company that in 1981 bought land in Texas that had been used for aircraft engine maintenance businesses and then went to court to recover some of the \$5 million it spent cleaning up pollution there. The justices said the company improperly tried to use the Superfund law to sue because the government had not demanded that the cleanup be done. However, the court left open the possibility that another part of the Superfund law could permit such lawsuits.

The justices said the Environmental Protection Agency to designate as "Superfund" sites areas that are highly polluted, and then officials can seek money from current and former owners for the cleanup costs.

From The Associated Press

## Peterson sentenced to death

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF  
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — A jury decided Monday that Scott Peterson should be executed for murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, whose Christmas Eve disappearance two years ago was the opening act in a legal drama that captivated America.

Cheers went up outside the courtroom as the jury announced its decision after 1½ hours of deliberations over three days.

Peterson clenched his jaw when the verdict was read but showed no other emotion.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge will have the option of reducing the sentence to life but said such a move is highly unlikely.

If the judge upholds the sentence, Peterson will be sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison outside San Francisco, the infamous lookout where prisoners

gaze out small cell windows overlooking the same bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

But Peterson still might not be executed for decades, if ever. That is because California's death row has grown to house about 650 condemned men and women since the state brought back capital punishment in 1978. Since then, only 10 executions have been carried out — the last one in 2002. It can take years for even the first phase of the appeals process to begin.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Dec. 15)	101.00
South Korean won (Dec. 15)	1,034.00
Euro (Dec. 15)	\$1.3991
Euro (Dec. 15)	\$1.3991
Commercial rates	
British pound (Dec. 15)	\$1.97

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.97
Canada (Dollar)	1.257
Denmark (Krone)	6.466
Egypt (Pound)	6.21
Euro	\$1.3211/0.998
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.74
Hungary (Forint)	137.46
Iceland (Krona)	63.135
Israel (Shekel)	18.48
Japan (Yen)	106.14
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.936
Norway (Krone)	6.212
Philippines (Peso)	56.20
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.599
Singapore (Dollar)	1.567
South Korea (Won)	1,055.52
Switzerland (Franc)	1.064
Thailand (Baht)	35.87
Turkey (Lira)	1,462,275.00

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (U.S. purchasing military pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

## PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$439.90
Silver	\$6.76

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.625
3-month bill	2.25
90-day bond	4.82

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## Beware of degree scams

CBS MarketWatch  
NEW YORK — If you want to get ahead in your field but don't have time to attend daily courses at your local college, you might consider a distance learning opportunity.

But before you spend the time, effort and money to get a higher education degree through correspondence courses or the Internet, make sure you aren't signing up to become a victim of fraud. The country has more than 2,600 diploma mills — set-ups that will take your money and, after little or no work on your part, give you a useless "degree."

So warns John Bear, co-author of the new book "Degree Mills."

Before you apply, make sure the learning organization is legitimate, Bear says. Here's what to look for:

■ Check the school's accreditation with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. You should look for a nationally or regionally accredited school, which means that the credits

earned there will be recognized and accepted at other institutes of higher education.

■ Don't take the school's word on accreditation, Bear says. There are more than 200 fake accrediting agencies with names resembling those of legitimate organizations. You can visit the CHEA at [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org) for the contact information of recognized regional and national accrediting agencies.

■ Watch out for schools that offer to credit your experience. If offered credit in a field that counts toward a master's or doctorate degree, or if the school bases your admission solely upon review of your resume, beware. Legitimate colleges will at least want to see your academic record, graduate test scores and grade point average.

■ If you're still not sure, make a two-minute phone call to the registrar of a legitimate college or university in your area. Tell them you're thinking of applying for a distance learning program at such-and-such. Ask if their college would accept those credits.

## Reliable Aircraft Towing Tractors and Road Sweepers Manufacturer.

### Meet Korea's No. 1 Manufacturer with worldwide clientele !



Our specialty is special purpose vehicles including R&D, manufacturing & sales, maintenance & after-sales of Aircraft Towing Tractors, Runway Sweepers and Road Sweepers. Our aircraft towing tractors are reliable and guaranteed to comply with US military specifications.

SHINJEONG Development Co. Comm. 82-52-254-1673  
Email: [shinjeon@chol.com](mailto:shinjeon@chol.com) Visit us at [www.sjmotor.com](http://www.sjmotor.com)





# Polls: Europe not happy with Bush re-election

BY WILL LESTER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's re-election was viewed negatively by a majority of people in several European countries — including those in Britain, America's strongest ally in the war in Iraq, Associated Press polling found.

The president was not the only one viewed unfavorably. Americans generally were seen in an unfavorable light by many in France, Germany and Spain, countries not supportive of U.S. Iraq policies.

Bush pledged soon after his re-election victory Nov. 2 that he would work to "deepen our trans-Atlantic ties with the European Union," he plans a trip to Europe in February.

The president, and Americans generally, have plenty of work to do to win over Europeans, according to international AP-Ipsos polls.

Polling in the United States as well as Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Spain was done for the AP by Ipsos, an international polling company.

As reflected by his re-election, a majority in the United States viewed Bush favorably. Just over half in this country said they were hopeful and were not disappointed after Bush's re-election.

At least seven in 10 in France, Germany and Spain said they have an unfavorable view of President Bush. Just over half of the French and Germans said they have an unfavorable view of Americans in general, and about half of Spaniards felt that way.

Especially inclined to have an unfavorable opinion of Bush in those countries were people between ages 18 and 24. A majority of all respondents in France, Germany and Spain said they were disappointed that Bush won a second four-year term, defeating Democrat John Kerry.

The rift with longtime allies France and Germany is the most serious in years, and relations with Spain are particularly frosty after Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq last April.

"Contrary to what usually happens just after a victory, George W. Bush's re-election hasn't improved his image in European public opinion," said Gilles Corman, director of public affairs for Ipsos-Inra in Belgium.

AP POLL

## Views of America, Bush from abroad

Americans fare slightly better than their president in polls conducted in several countries.

Opinion of Americans		Opinion of President Bush	
Percentage Favorable	Unfavorable	Percentage Favorable	Unfavorable
Canada 80%	18%	Canada 57%	42%
Australia 69	26	Australia 32	64
France 41	52	France 19	74
Germany 41	53	Germany 17	78
Italy 56	34	Italy 38	53
Spain 35	49	Spain 19	70
Britain 60	34	Britain 30	64

NOTE: The poll included about 1,000 adults in each of the countries and was taken Nov. 19-27; it has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

## Honoring overseas troops



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush pose with elves, from left, Brook Allen and Marco and Milena Spencer Galles, before the taping of the annual Christmas in Washington concert on Sunday. The president spoke of the many servicemembers far from home during the holiday season. "These families and the troops they love can be certain that they have the support and gratitude of our nation."

## NASA chief O'Keefe resigns

WASHINGTON — Sean O'Keefe, who has spent three tumultuous years running the nation's space program, resigned Monday.

O'Keefe, 48, is a leading candidate to become the \$500,000-a-year chancellor of Louisiana State University's main campus in Baton Rouge. He will meet Thursday with a search committee seeking to fill the job, the panel's chairman, Joel Tohlne, said Sunday.

Glenn Mahone, the state NASA spokesman, said O'Keefe submitted a resignation letter on Monday to President Bush, who accepted it.

## Jurors convict Pelosi of murder

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — Daniel Pelosi was convicted of second-degree murder Monday in the 2001 bludgeoning death of a millionaire investment banker who was beaten as he slept in the bedroom of his mansion.

Jurors deliberated over three days before deciding on the charges that Pelosi killed Theodore Ammon at Ammon's mansion in the Long Island community of East Hampton. Ammon was beaten more than 30 times on the head with a blunt object.

## Challenge filed hours before vote

COLUMBUS — The Ohio delegation to the Electoral College cast its votes for President Bush on Monday, hours after dissident groups asked the state Supreme Court to review the outcome of the state's presidential race.

The 20 Republican electors voted unanimously for Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

"The vast majority of people understanding this election is over," said Gov. Bob Taft, who was at the electors' voting session in the state Senate chamber.

## Man survives 18 hours in ocean

MIAMI — By the time spear fisherman Ignacio Sibierto realized his boat had drifted away in the chilly waters off the Florida Keys, it was too late to signal for help.

Instead, the 80-year-old who dives nearly every weekend called on his instincts, mustering all his mental and physical strength to move his legs underwater to prevent hypothermia.

Sibierto spent more than 18 hours holding on to the buoy in the cold, rough ocean before he was found by a relative Sunday, ending an exhaustive search in the Atlantic.

From The Associated Press

HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR

# Holiday Loan?

Visit one of our banking centers for more information.

## CommunityBank

Operated by Bank of America Member FDIC

www.DoDCommunityBank.com

RATES AS LOW AS  
**7.78% APR\***

## Living Offbase? Save \$\$ with our New Low Rates!

\*Credit for new Customers based on equivalent rate to US Existing Customers Please Call E-Mail for Rate Plan

Japan	to the USA	Korea	Remote
9.9% C	48 States	7.9% C	5.9% C
From OFFBASE	From OFFBASE	Calling via DSN	

- \* Ask for your FREE Personal 800 Number in the US Friends and Family to call you only, at your expense, and at low US rates.
- \* Ask for a FREE ONECARD Calling Card, which can be used in over 50 countries and, where permitted, over the DSN network, and save up to 50% over AT&T
- \* Cellphone calls at higher rate.

- \* American Quality since 1994!
- \* Fast, Easy Sign Up Anytime!
- \* Credit Card/US Bank Debit!
- \* Use with Cellular Phones™
- \* Great Customer Service 24/7!

For more info or secure sign up:  
**www.militel.net**

**CALL TOLL FREE 24 HRS**

Japan	00-531-13-0436
S.Korea	00-308-14-0025
E-mail	info@militel.net

**MILITEL**  
Calling Services  
Serving the Military Since 1994

\* APR - Annual Percentage Rate. All rates shown reflect a 2.5% APR rate reduction for automatic payment from your Community Bank checking or savings account. Other rates and terms may apply and will be determined by credit history and loan application. Rates are effective October 1, 2004 and further rates will be subject to change without notice. Cash is subject to approval. Example: A 3-year fixed rate \$20,000 conventional mortgage loan. Based on a simple interest rate of 7.78%, this loan would have 35 monthly payments of \$61.21 and one final payment of \$16.24. Annual percentage rate (APR) of 7.78%. This example assumes automatic deduction of the loan payment from a Community Bank checking account. Increase the rate and APR by 2.5% if you choose not to use automatic payment.



# Golden Globes awards go 'Sideways'

## Road-trip film's seven nominations take lead

BY DAVID GERMAIN  
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The road-trip flick "Sideways" led Golden Globe contenders Monday with seven nominations, including best musical or comedy film, three acting nominations and best director, while Jamie Foxx scored a record three nominations.

The Howard Hughes biography "The Aviator" landed six nominations including best dramatic feature and best director.

Other best drama nominees were the caustic sex tale "Closer"; "Finding Neverland," the story of "Peter Pan" creator J.M. Barrie; "Hotel Rwanda," a tale set against the genocide in that country; "Kinsey," a film biography of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, and the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby."

Along with "Sideways," best musical or comedy nominees were the whimsical romance "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"; the animated superhero adventure "The Incredibles"; "The Phantom of the Opera," adapted from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical; and the Ray Charles film biography "Ray."

"Ray" star Foxx was nominated for best musical or comedy actor for that film, for supporting actor for "Collateral" as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man, and as best actor in a TV movie or miniseries for "Redemption."



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/AP

Actors Sandra Oh, left, Thomas Haden Church, second from left, Virginia Madsen and Paul Giamatti, right, appear in a scene from "Sideways." Madsen received a Golden Globe nomination for best supporting actress as a deceived lover in the film.

Other stars have received two nominations in a single year, but Foxx was the first to receive three.

"The Aviator" star Leonardo DiCaprio earned a nomination as best dramatic actor for his role as Hughes. Other nominees were Javier Bardem as a paralyzed man seeking the right to die in "The Sea Inside"; Don Cheadle as a hotel manager sheltering refugees in "Hotel Rwanda"; Johnny Depp as playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland"; and Liam Neeson as the title character in "Kinsey."

Dramatic lead actress nominees were Scarlett Johansson in "A Love Song for Bobby Long," playing a teen who finds an

unlikely extended family; Nicole Kidman as a woman visited by a boy claiming to be her dead husband in "Birth"; Imelda Staunton as the title character in the abortion drama "Vera Drake"; Hilary Swank as a boxer in "Million Dollar Baby" and Una Thurman as a vengeful former assassin in "Kill Bill — Vol. 2."

Along with Foxx, "Sideways" star Paul Giamatti was nominated for best actor in a musical or comedy for his role as a loser in love on a road trip with a buddy.

Other nominees were Jim Carrey as a man who pays to have memories of his ex-girlfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"; Kevin Kline as com-

poser Cole Porter in "De-Lovely" and Kevin Spacey as singer Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea."

Musical or comedy actress nominees included Annette Bening as a London stage diva in "Being Julia"; Ashley Judd as composer Porter's wife in "De-Lovely"; and Emmy Rossum as a musical stage ingenue in "The Phantom of the Opera."

Other nominees were Kate Winslet as Carrey's ex-girlfriend in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and Renee Zellweger as the title character in the romantic sequel "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason."

Contenders for best film director included Alexander Payne for "Sideways" and Martin Scorsese for "The Aviator."

The remaining directing nominees: Clint Eastwood for "Million Dollar Baby," Marc Forster for "Finding Neverland" and Mike Nichols for "Closer."

Eastwood also was nominated for his musical score on "Million Dollar Baby," while his star in that film, Swank, received a second nomination for best actress in a TV miniseries or movie for "Iron Jawed Angels."

Three of the best actress nominees for TV musical or comedy series were co-stars of ABC's smash hit "Desperate Housewives": Marcia Cross, Teri Hatcher and Felicity Huffman. The other nominees: Debra Messing of "Will & Grace" and Sarah Jessica Parker for "Sex and the City."

Best TV drama series picks were "24," "Deadwood," "Lost," "Nip/Tuck" and "The Sopranos." Best comedy series nominees were "Arrested Development," "Desperate Housewives," "Entourage," "Sex and the City" and "Will & Grace."

## New Year's Eve Las Vegas Night

Friday, December 31 from 1800 to 0100  
in Speakeasy Casino on 4th floor of Fleet Rec

**Don't miss the biggest party of the year!**

We'll have roulette, Black Jack, poker, 21, slot machines and more. Play bingo for \$50,000 in prizes including \$25,000 guaranteed jackpot and additional games worth \$5,000, \$3,000 & \$2,000!

- Enjoy a live band, dancing, DJs, party favors, champagne and lots of free food!
- No host bar and transportation from Ikego & Negishi available
- Awards for best 1920s era costume

Advance Bingo & Casino Package, \$60; Additional Packages, \$40;  
At-the-Door, \$80; Casino Package only, \$25

**\$25,000  
GUARANTEED  
JACKPOT**

Friday, December 31 thru Saturday, January 01 from 1800 to 1000  
CDC New Year's Eve Special Opening

Parents can enjoy our New Year's celebration, too! Reservations for option 1 or 2 must be made and pre-paid in person by Monday, December 27 at Main CDC. Cancellations must be made by 1700 Thursday, December 30 to receive a full refund.

Option 1 offers childcare from 1800 Friday thru 0200 Saturday for \$45 per child

Option 2 offers childcare from 1800 Friday thru 1000 Saturday, including breakfast, for \$65 per child





# Camp Zama Last Minute Super Holiday Late Night Sale

2100-2300 Saturday 18 December

## Karaoke Contest

...prizes and giveaways  
for best scores!!

## Trivial Pursuit

.. test your knowledge!  
Answer correctly  
and win!

## Enter to win

**Canon**  
Powershot A70  
Digital Camera  
(two to be given away!)

first 50 customers get a

**\$10**  
gift card

See us when we open back up at 2100  
Santa's Elve's will be Loading the store with  
Saturday Night only INSTANT Rebates in Powerzone,  
Linens and Home Traditions.. !!



## Camp Zama All Day Specials Sat 18th...

Check out Home Traditions Holiday Toy Tent

**50% off**

selected toys  
and Holiday  
Decorations

**50% off**

Junctions West  
Mens Coats

**50% off**

christmas trees,  
lights and  
selected christmas  
decorations  
(excludes hallmark)

**25% off**

christmas CD's  
and DVD's

**30% off**

Tiger  
Appliances

...watch for  
camp zama's food court  
Days of christmas



**Camp Zama  
Burger King**

Saturday all day special

**.99 Hamburger kids meal**

looking for last minute gifts? **AAFES** gift card

You save an average of 21.89% when you shop at AAFES



limited to stock on hand, Sorry, No Layaways/Layaway adjustments

**AAFES**  
aafes.com...open all the time!

Your Camp Zama PX is  
open 0900 - 2000 daily.

Consumer  
Electronics  
of the Year  
**POWER ZONE**  
2004

Military  
**STAR**





Specialist LaAndrea LaMarque, 54B Chemical Specialist, U.S. Army Reserve

# PART-TIME SOLDIER. FULL-TIME WARRIOR.

©2003. Part of by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

AN ARMY OF ONE®

## ARMY RESERVE

It's not your everyday job.



U.S. ARMY®

Army Reserve Soldiers serve proudly, just like you. After Active Duty, transitioning to the Army Reserve lets you secure important benefits and in most cases retain your rank. For details see your Reserve Component Career Counselor or Retention NCO. [goarmyreserve.com/ps](http://goarmyreserve.com/ps)



## FACES



Reteamed Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal of Tears For Fears perform in New York's Rockefeller Center on Sept. 25, as part of NBC's "Today" show. The band is best known for its 1980s hits "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

# Shouting match

## Years after bitter split, Tears for Fears duo find a 'Happy Ending' together

BY ROSS RAIHALA

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Curt Smith knew he was ready to leave Tears for Fears back in 1989, as the duo was finishing its third album, "The Seeds of Love."

"I made the decision before I started the tour," Smith said during a phone interview from his home in Los Angeles. "I left at the end of it. It was no fun anymore; it had become a tedious experience."

Fifteen years later, Smith has reunited with Tears for Fears co-founder Roland Orzabal for a new record — appropriately titled "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending" — and tour.

And for Smith, Tears for Fears is fun again. "Oh, phew, it's night and day, really," he said. "Making this record was an enjoyable process from start to finish, which is unheard of for us."

When Smith and Orzabal formed the group in the early '80s, they were drawn together by a mutual admiration for Arthur Janov's primal scream therapy. Their gloomy first album, 1983's "The Hurting," was a hit in their native England, despite the depressive nature of the lyrics reflected in song titles such as "Watch Me Bleed," "Suffer the Children" and "Mad World."

But by 1985's "Songs From The Big Chair," Smith and Orzabal had lightened up, sort of, and found a worldwide audience on the strength of the now-classic singles "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

The newfound fame and fortune turned the sessions for "The Seeds of Love" into a grueling marathon that lasted more than two years. "I thought the production was great," said

Smith. "And there are a couple standard tracks. But there's also a lot of filler material and self-indulgent nonsense."

After Smith departed the group, Orzabal kept recording under the Tears for Fears moniker throughout the '90s, to diminishing commercial returns. The duo's only communication was through lawyers.

But in 1999, the pair made up over dinner. "It wasn't because we were thinking of making a record; we just realized [not talking] was just silly," Smith said. "We

had such a long history together, we started out just working on our friendship."

Over the next few years, the pair continued to talk, and eventually the conversation turned to music. They had already started recording together when a cover

version of the duo's "Mad World," performed by singer/songwriter Gary Jules, became a surprise hit in 2003 after featuring prominently in the cult film "Donnie Darko."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the duo's comeback album picks up, sonically, where "The Seeds of Love" left off. It's a grand, sweeping record full of Beatlesque turns and jazzy flourishes.

"There are definitely some ties between them," Smith said. "I think this is what 'The Seeds of Love' should have been. I think it's actually better."

As for the future, is Tears for Fears' new album title, "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending," an epitaph? Smith said the pair have other plans through the summer and have continued to write new music.

"You know, we have a good working relationship now," Smith said.

"But whenever we've made plans in the past, we've never stuck to them. Who knows what will happen, but we're enjoying it now."

*"We just realized [not talking] was just silly."*

Curt Smith

## Wyclef Jean launches Haiti effort

Wyclef Jean has launched a nonpolitical humanitarian effort to help rebuild his native Haiti.

Yele Haiti seeks to use music and community development as an outreach to the Caribbean country's youth. The organization plans to help rebuild schools in slum areas and hold a free concert in Haiti in the spring.

Jean launched Yele Haiti with a concert Thursday night. Among those on the arrivals line were Susan Sarandon, a member of a task force that is assisting the former Fugees rapper, and her partner, Tim Robbins.

"The objective of Yele Haiti is to restore pride and a reason to hope, and for the whole country to regain the deep spirit and strength that is part of our heritage," Jean says on the Yele Haiti Web site.

Jean's 1997 solo hit, "We Trying to Stay Alive," re-worked the Bee Gees disco classic into an anthem of Haitian slums.

## Pepper: Earnhardt role had to be true

While portraying baseball great Roger Maris, actor Barry Pepper learned the importance of capturing the character. Anything short of authentic doesn't sit very well with fans.

So when it came to portraying Dale Earnhardt, perhaps the most revered man in NASCAR history, Pepper knew

he had his work cut out for him.

"[Earnhardt] is an American legend, and that is always thin ice," Pepper said. "And the similarities between Earnhardt and Maris ... they had extraordinary fan bases."

You knew you were dealing with a very fervent opinion of who the man was, so if you strayed too far from that or didn't do your homework, you were going to hear about it."

Pepper, nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of Maris in the TV movie "61," plays Earnhardt from ages 16 to 49 in the ESPN biopic "3," directed by Russell Mulcahy.

When he arrived in North Carolina, where filming took place in the Charlotte area and Earnhardt's hometown of Kannapolis, fans made it clear they wanted Pepper to get it right.

The movie doesn't show the 2001 crash that killed Earnhardt on the final lap of the Daytona 500 — Pepper said it would have been inappropriate. And the film was made

without the cooperation of Earnhardt's widow, Teresa, who had early discussions with the network but didn't reach an agreement.

## Poker players go for beauty

Pamela Anderson wins with a full house.

In an online survey conducted by EmpirePoker.com, 42 percent of the Web site's VIPs selected model-actress Anderson as the celebrity they would most like to play against.

"Our players clearly think Pamela Anderson isn't too bright or maybe they just want to ogle her," said Ron Burke, EmpirePoker.com's marketing manager.

Dennis Rodman was a distant second with 24 percent. James Woods shuffled 13 percent, Dave Navarro was picked by 10 percent, skateboarder Tony Hawk and Matt Damon each drew 3 percent, Donald Trump was selected by 2 percent and 1 percent said Ben Affleck.

Hank Azaria, Michael Ian Black, Ron Artest, Clay Aiken and Teri Hatcher also picked up votes.

When asked which celebrity would be most likely to cheat at poker, 37 percent of those surveyed chose Affleck.

Stories and photos from wire services



Barry Pepper as NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt



Anderson



## • SPORTS

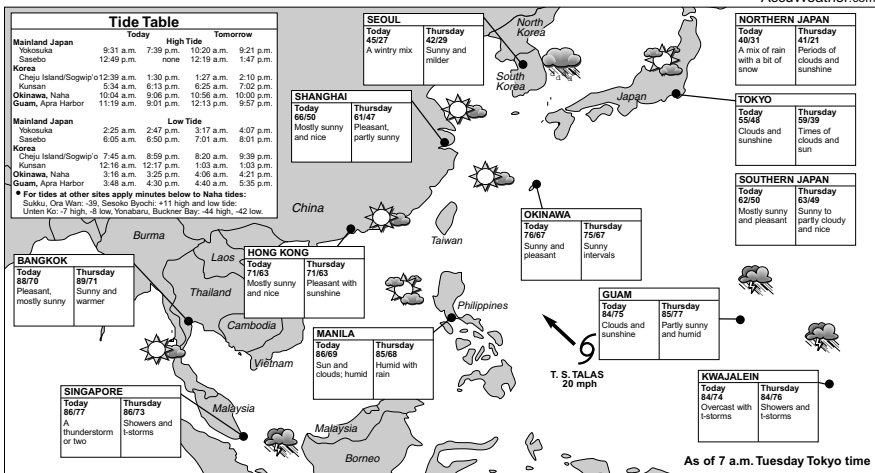
<p><b>JAPAN TV</b></p> <p>12:00 CS: Crime Scene Investigation (12)  12:30 World News (1)  5:50 News (6)  7:00 NHK News (1)  7:25 Simple Rules (3)  7:50 World News (1)  10:00 America's Top 40 (42)  10:30 The World's Best Volleyball (6)  10:30 Japan's Best: Bull (6)</p>	<p>10:10 85 World Documentary: Han's Suitcase (7)  11:15 CNN News  <b>Afternoon</b>  12:15 CNN News  10:30 21st Century Newshour  3:15 CNN News  5:15 World News Hour  5:15 Asian News  <b>Evening</b>  6:15 CNN News  7:00 Emperor's Cup Soccer Championship: Yokohama F. Marinos vs. Tokyo Kasatsuki</p>	<p><b>JAPAN TV-B511</b></p> <p><b>Morning</b>  10:00 Classical Music: Nikolai Lugansky Piano Recital (r)  7:00 NHK News  10:00 Y! Drama: The Snow Queen (2/2)  6:00 TV Series: Alias (2)  12:00 U.S. Movie (1997): Duel (13)  1:31 U.S. Movie (2008): The Warriors (2:19)</p>	<p><b>WOWW</b></p> <p><b>Morning</b>  7:30 Oswald No. 6  8:30 U.S. Movie (1965): The Man Who Knew Too Much (2:25)  10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Scorpion King</p>	<p><b>Afternoon</b>  12:00 TV Series: Third Watch (r)  10:00 British U.S. Movie (2002): Lost In La Mancha (1:35)  2:35 Making of "12 Monkeys"  <b>Evening</b>  6:00 U.S. Movie (1995): Giant (3:24)  6:00 U.S. Movie (2001): China Gate  2:55 UEFA Euro Soccer Cup: Latvia vs. Germany (r)  4:05 U.S. Movie (2002): Red Skies (1:25)</p>	<p><b>MTV</b></p> <p><b>Morning</b>  10:00 Top Choices  10:00 Pure Music  11:00 Top Choices  12:00 Pure Music  11:00 Top Choices  <b>Afternoon</b>  12:00 YATV1  10:00 Film My Ride</p>	<p>1:30 YATV1 Presents: FEAT. JAY ALI  3:00 All the Best of MTV No. 5-No. 6  10:00 British U.S. Movie (2002): Making the Video Special - D12, Jay Z  4:00 All the Best of MTV No. 5 Osbourne  Special No. 5-No. 6  5:00 All the Best of MTV No. 4 Artist Special  — Chemistry  <b>Evening</b>  6:00 M Size Wednesday  8:00 All VJ's on the Cure  8:00 All VJ's on the Cure  8:00 MTV: The Cure  6:00 All the Best of MTV Artist Special: Beast In Boys &amp; Green Day  10:00 Making the Video: Juice Wrld  10:30 Check the Rhyme  10:00 Top Choices  11:30 Best of MTV 2004 Artist Special: Kelly &amp; Kanye West  12:00 Rocks  1:00 M Size Wednesday  2:00 Rocks  2:30 Classic  3:00 After Hours</p>
--	--	---	---	--	---	---



# The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com



## Extended Forecasts

### TOKYO

Friday: Mostly sunny, high 51, low 40.  
 Saturday: Showers, high 57, low 50.

### KADENA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 76, low 68.  
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 77, low 66.

### SEUL

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 44, low 29.  
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 41, low 20.

### MANILA

Friday: Showers, high 84, low 69.  
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 70.

### HAGATNA

Friday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 78.  
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 76.

## Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	51/29	Los Angeles	68/52
Amarillo	43/19	Little Rock	54/22
Anchorage	33/22	Louisville	39/24
Ashville	48/21	Miami	74/56
Baltimore	48/31	Milwaukee	32/17
Birmingham	54/23	Nashville	44/23
Bismarck	32/6	New York	48/32
Boise	53/36	Omaha	32/10
Boston	47/29	Orlando	75/49
Brownsville	78/48	Philadelphia	47/30
Buffalo	34/23	Phoenix	78/52
Burlington	37/18	Pittsburgh	33/24
Charleston, SC	68/31	Portland, OR	54/46
Charlotte	59/26	Portland, ME	42/26
Chicago	33/23	Salt Lake City	51/30
Columbus, OH	34/24	St. Louis	38/14
Duluth	14/0	San Antonio	62/28
El Paso	56/28	San Diego	64/53
Hartford	47/29	San Juan	87/74
Helena	32/19	Tampa	75/50
Indianapolis	32/20	Tulsa	50/18
Jacksonville	72/57	Washington	50/30
Kansas City	36/13	Wichita	46/17

## Wednesday, December 15



## U.S. Extended Forecast

Another unseasonably cold day is in store for much of the East Wednesday despite some sunshine. A few additional lake-effect flurries will occur during the morning hours along the eastern shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. With a large area of high pressure positioned over the Mississippi Valley, dry conditions will stretch from the East Coast to the Plains. In the southern Plains, a southerly flow will result in milder temperatures. Some clouds will filter into the Southwest as a cold front crosses the Rockies. This front will trigger a bit of snow over the northern Rockies with flurries occurring over the rest of the mountains.

## Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/70	Iwakuni	63/50
Beijing	43/21	Kadena AB	76/67
Camp Casey	46/28	Kunsan AB	53/38
Christchurch	68/48	Kwajalein	84/74
Diego Garcia	87/78	Manila	86/69
Hagatna	74/65	Misawa AB	44/32
Hanoi	85/73	Osan	48/30
Hong Kong	71/63	Perth	92/69
Honolulu	82/67	Pusan	58/44

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Sasebo NB	63/51	Sapporo	40/31
Seoul	45/27	Seoul	45/27
Shanghai	66/50	Singapore	86/77
Singapore	86/77	Sydney	73/55
Sydney	73/55	Tagu	55/37
Tagu	55/37	Taipei	76/63
Taipei	76/63	Tokyo	55/48

## Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/71	Budapest	39/31	Kabul	77/52
Athens	48/36	Buenos Aires	82/63	Kiev	23/19
Auckland	66/57	Cairo	58/39	Kuwait	63/30
Baghdad	56/33	Cancun	69/56	London	51/44
Barbados	86/70	Cape Town	75/57	Madrid	52/39
Barcelona	52/42	Geneva	43/38	Mexico City	59/39
Berlin	44/37	Istanbul	38/28	Montreal	21/20
Bermuda	70/53	Jerusalem	52/41	Mogadishu	85/70
Brussels	44/38	Johannesburg	25/15	Moscow	18/14
				Warsaw	39/33



# Sell it.....Free!

Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or bicycle in Stars and Stripes. No charge! On us! Up to 7 lines of copy for 21 days - free! Call Classified today at 229-3276, or email at [classified@starsandstripes.com](mailto:classified@starsandstripes.com). Individuals only - no dealers!

New! How often? Always.  
**STARS AND STRIPES**  
[www.starsandstripes.com](http://www.starsandstripes.com)



## Missing bells found

**WA** SEATTLE—A handbell hobbyist in Texas helped crack the case of the stolen church chimes, leading police to a trio of young men suspected of pawnning about \$20,000 worth of the gleaming bronze instruments.

Six of eight cases of Schulerich handbells and Malmark hand chimes stolen from Alderwood Community Church in Lynnwood, Wash., were sold by mail shipments through eBay to buyers as far away as Pennsylvania for a combined \$4,129.

A 21-year-old Everett, Wash., man—a former church member—was arrested, and police expect to arrest other suspects.

The church didn't discover its collection of nearly 100 bells and chimes was missing until Labor Day weekend because its bell choir took a summer hiatus.

## Reporter claims assault

**NC** BURLINGTON—A developer was charged with threatening and assaulting a newspaper reporter who wrote a story about a proposed private club in Burlington.

James Moffat, a reporter for the Times-News of Burlington, said Ernie Koury Jr., 50, confronted him before a meeting of the Burlington City Council. Koury allegedly grabbed Moffat by the throat and shirt collar, shook him and threatened to kill him if he wrote another article about the club like one Moffat had written earlier.

The story, written in November, quoted a planning and zoning commissioner who questioned what kind of business the club would be. Koury's attorney accused the commissioner that "nothing illegal" would take place.

Koury was charged with communicating threats and simple assault. The newspaper asked Moffat to file the charges.

## High-tech licenses

**MN** ST. PAUL—Minnesota has begun issuing a first-of-its-kind driver's license designed to thwart counterfeiters—an issue that has taken on greater urgency since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The licenses have a security feature in which a reflective image appears to float above and below the card when the license is tilted. The licenses will have a distinctively Minnesota flavor: The floating images will be of loons, an enduring symbol of the state.

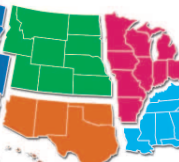
Minnesota is the first state to use the technology, developed by Maplewood-based 3M Co. The technology has been around about a year and has only been used on Australian passports.

## Surprise landing

**TX** FABENS—A small plane that had lost power briefly landed atop an 18-wheeler before crashing onto the highway, authorities said. The two people aboard the plane came out unscathed, and the truck driver never heard a thing.

"Nothing happened to the truck, except for a couple of small marks up top," said Trooper Larkia Spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The single-engine plane carry-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ing an El Paso couple fell off the trailer and landed upside down on Interstate 10 during the emergency landing 19 miles east of El Paso, Texas said.

FAA investigators were reviewing the incident.

## Driving teacher fired

**NH** CONCORD—An uncertified high school driving instructor previously convicted of drunken driving was arrested after his vehicle ran off the road as he was headed to teach a driving class, officials said.

Arthur Desmeules, 66, faces several charges stemming from the Nov. 22 incident, including drunken driving. The Nashua School District fired him last week.

He had taught driving to students in the district for 35 years.

## Not a hate crime

**FL** CLEARWATER—A white man accused of draping a noose around the shoulders of a black teenager was convicted of misdemeanor battery. The jury declined to return a felony verdict that would have labeled the offense a hate crime.

Circuit Judge Tim Peters, however, surprised the courtroom by sending Louis J. Giannini IV, 20, to jail pending his Jan. 10 sentencing. He had been free on bond, and a misdemeanor usually carries



## Look out below

**Mike Bishop rappels from the top of the McLennan County Courthouse in Waco, Texas, while changing some of the 1,200 bulbs that line the exterior.**

only probation for a defendant with no prior record.

Giannini was accused of draping a noose around the neck of Dionte Hall, 15, in January at a Wendy's restaurant in Largo, west of Tampa. He claimed he did so because another youngster, whose father is black, bet him \$10 he wouldn't do it.

## High salaries

**CA** OAKLAND—More than 800 people who work for the financially strapped city of Oakland made at least \$100,000 in the last fiscal year, according to records released following a court order obtained by a newspaper.

The total represents about 18 percent of the city's work force of about 4,500 from July 2003 through July 2004. About three-quarters of the employees were in the police and fire departments.

Oakland is facing a projected deficit of more than \$45 million over the next two years that threatens basic city services. The deficit is partly due to pay raises and improved benefits approved during the economic boom of the 1990s.

About two-thirds of the top earners had salaries set under \$100,000, but earned more due to extras, such as overtime. One police officer made \$177,311 during the period, although his base salary was \$73,188, according to the records.

## Prescription savings

**ME** PORTLAND—A program that encourages city employees to use other prescription drugs from Canada is saving the city and its workers tens of thousands of dollars, city officials said. Savings through the Portland Meds program are on track to top \$100,000 during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The program was launched last July.

## Deer-vehicle crashes up

**IN** FORT WAYNE—More than 14,000 deer-vehicle crashes were reported in the state last year, and the frequency of the crashes is increasing, says the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Deer researcher Lance McNew says there were 20 percent more crashes last year than in 2000.

## Crowded cemeteries

**VT** QUECHEE—When Lawrence Hudson Jr. dies, he expects to be buried in the plot his great-grandmother bought 80 years ago, near where his father, Lawrence Hudson Sr., was buried in June.

It helps that Hudson is following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps around the Hilltop Cemetery, caring for the same plots tended by the two previous Hudsons who served as sexton.

There's space for him in the family plot, Hudson said.

Others might not be as fortunate. Quechee's is among a number of cemeteries in Vermont and New Hampshire that have run out of room to grow.

The cost of adding land to existing cemeteries has risen greatly, just as year-round population growth and the desire of some vacation home owners to be buried in the hills have increased demand.



## Balloons that glow

Balloonists from the Southwest Smith Park.



**Something is missing ...** Nick Harberts of Worthington wins a heat race with his 2005 Arctic Cat Freecat during Winterfest in Luverne, Minn. From snowmobiling on alfalfa to strapping on cross-country skis with wheels, Minnesotans are finding ways of coping with a frustrating lack of snow.



## Ride 'em Santa

Santa is lifted onto an old B-47 at the former Pittsburgh (N.Y.) Air Force Base by workers from the Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corp. Santa has ridden the bomber for 30 years.





tern Ohio Competition Club light the night sky during the annual Christmas Balloon Glow in Middletown, Ohio's



A cow moose gets a snout full of snow

Got something on your nose while feeding in a field near West Yellowstone, Mont.



Swoosh!

Kane Lasky, of Boise, Idaho, skis down to the base of Bogus Basin Ski Resort's Deer Point lift on the first day of skiing at the resort outside of Boise.



Let there be light

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on the start of Hanukkah.

Rabbi Yacov Borenstein, left, and local businessman Stephen Aronson light a torch on the menorah at the intersection of Main and Skating streets in

## Man convicted of murder

**NE** GERING — A man who abducted, assaulted and killed a 15-year-old newspaper carrier in western Nebraska was convicted of first-degree murder.

Jeffrey Hessler, 26, was found guilty in the February 2003 death of Heather Guerrero, who was kidnapped blocks from her home. Her body was found the next day by two family members at an abandoned house about 12 miles away.

The prosecutor, Doug Warner, said a neighbor's report of hearing a scream and seconds later a speeding car were proof Guerrero was "surprised, overpowered and taken against her will."

Defense lawyer Jim Mowbray said Hessler "didn't mean for it to happen" and had not planned to kill Guerrero. Mowbray maintained that Hessler should have been charged with second-degree murder.

## Steer escapes death

**WI** CALEDONIA — After four days on the lam, a wayward steer that had been spotted on front yards and near a golf course found its way back to its own barn and avoided a possible death penalty.

Police had standing orders to shoot the 700-pound animal because of the danger it could pose if it strayed into traffic on nearby state Highway 38.

Kelly Welter and her children joined the search with her 17-year-old nephew, who owns the animal and plans to show it at the Racine County Fair next year, after the steer broke through an electric fence and a stock gate.

## Suspicious fires continue

**DC** WASHINGTON — A serial arsonist who authorities believe started more than 40 fires struck again, investigators said.

The latest fire, which broke out at 5 a.m. on the exterior of a house in Northeast Washington, is the 46th case in the region to come under the jurisdiction of the Arson Task Force.

"Investigators are pretty confident that this is part of our serial arsonists," said Kelly Long, task force spokeswoman and agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Long said investigators believe the latest fire is linked to the others based on general characteristics.

## Decorations troubling

**AZ** SCOTTSDALE — The boo birds said Chris Birkett's Halloween display was too scary, and now he's in trouble with the law.

Birkett, who stages elaborate holiday displays at his home, was charged with disorderly conduct following an Oct. 30 police report over his Halloween display, police said.

Birkett's neighbor told police she has small children who were frightened and couldn't sleep because of the ghostly sounds.

Officers attested that they could hear the noise from the neighbor's home and submitted their report to prosecutors, police spokesman Sam Bailey said.

Another neighbor called police recently about Birkett's winter display. That neighbor complained about the noise from crews working to put up the display and traffic

and debris left by sightseers.

Police said Birkett faces a \$2,500 fine and six months in jail if convicted of disorderly conduct.

## Landlord convicted

**NY** NEW YORK — A landlord was found guilty of hiring hit men to force two brothers out of a rent-controlled apartment last year.

Juan Basagotia, 50, was accused of paying two tenants in the building \$2,500 to beat the brothers and attack them with a knife in March. He allegedly wanted to oust the victims from their three-bedroom, \$400-a-month apartment in the Elmhurst section of New York's Queens borough so he could raise the rent to \$1,500.

The brothers, William and David Lavery, suffered disfiguring injuries in the attack but survived.

Basagotia could face up to life in prison when sentenced in January. His lawyer, Stewart Orden, said his client hired the attackers to scare the brothers, not to hurt them, and that the plan spiraled out of control.

## Hospital wristband safety

**FL** TAMPA — A hospital chain is taping over patients' LiveStrong wristbands because they are yellow — the same color as the "do not resuscitate" bands it puts on patients who do not want to be saved if their heart stops.

No mix-ups have been reported, but BayCare Health Systems officials do not want to take any chances.

The popular LiveStrong rubber bracelets are sold through the Lance Armstrong Foundation as part of the champion bicycle racer's efforts to raise money for cancer research.

## Gun applications down

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Not as many Missourians as expected have applied to carry a concealed gun. Officials had expected as many as 60,000 applications in the first year, but county sheriffs have requested only 13,748 background checks through November. The permits became available in March.

## Graffiti gets political

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, who has thumbed his nose at the establishment before, let a graffiti artist spray paint his City Hall office walls with the bright orange message: "SMASH THE STATE."

There is irony. There is art appreciation. There are raised eyebrows.

Gonzalez, who has hosted monthly art installations in his office by unknown and known artists for the last four years, ordered up this graffiti for one of his last exhibits before he exits City Hall on Jan. 8. Gonzalez did not seek re-election.

The timing and placement of the artwork are interesting, seeing how City Hall is a registered historical landmark, and you need approval just to hang a bulletin board — and seeing how Mayor Gavin Newsom, Gonzalez's rival in the mayor's race last year, has been issuing strict edicts about the city's and public's responsibility to clean up graffiti vandalism.

Stories and photos from wire services







## OPINION

## Troops don't need to be shielded from truth

If you don't like the message, as an old spin doctors' motto goes, knock the messenger. That's how some people are reacting to the soldier's question that knocked Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld off his game during a town-hall session in Kuwait.

## Clarence Page



Spec. Thomas J. Wilson, a scout with a Tennessee National Guard unit, wondered out loud why soldiers still have to fortify their canvas-covered Humvees with "hillybilly armor"—scrap metal and ballistic-resistant glass that they dig out of landfills for protection. After a brief moment of stony silence, the comment brought a spontaneous eruption of "hoorah!" and applause from other troops.

It also brought a remarkably condescending response from Rumsfeld, who may have become too accustomed to treating reporters like annoyingly curious children to shift gears to a tone appropriate for the combat men and women under his command.

"You go to war with the Army you have," he said, "not the one you might want or the one you might wish to have at a later time."

That was a curious comment, considering how much time the Defense Department has had to build up to "the Army we might want" since the end of what the administration calls "major fighting" last year.

Rumsfeld deliberately held down the manpower and support for Iraq against the strong advance of former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki and other generals who said that more troops and equipment would be needed. The Army we have is what Rums-

feld wanted, not what the generals said we needed.

Now, Rumsfeld assured the troops, the Pentagon is pushing its suppliers to produce armored vehicles as fast as possible. But his claim brought swift dispute from some of the makers of armor and Humvees. The factories have been running well below capacity, spokesmen said, but the Pentagon had not taken them up on the offers to produce more armored vehicles.

Meanwhile, improvised devices developed at roadides — against which our troops could use more armor — have caused about half of America's casualties.

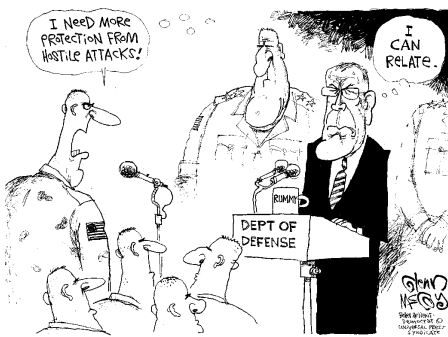
Yet, Rumsfeld added what may be the world's least necessary caveat: "You can have all the armor in the world on a tank; it can [still] be blown up."

I don't know when Rumsfeld will take questions from soldiers again, but the day after you-know-what freezes over sounds about right.

Yet, hard as it may be to criticize Spec. Wilson for raising a question that undoubtedly weighs on the mind of each and every soldier in Iraq, some people are finding ways to criticize the combat newspaper correspondent who, it turns out, had been in Wilson's hand since it.

Edward Lee Pitts, a reporter with the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free Press who is embedded with Wilson's Tennessee National Guard unit, took credit in an e-mail letter leaked to Internet sites that after he learned that reporters would not have a chance to question Rumsfeld, he worked on questions in advance of the meeting with two soldiers from the unit.

In a letter to readers, his newspaper acknowledged that the reporter should have mentioned his role in his reporting, but otherwise, his editors supported him, as they should. He did not deceive anyone. No one forced Wilson to ask the question, which



President Bush later agreed was a legitimate question to ask.

Yet, some partisan critics, apparently unable to defend Rumsfeld, attacked Pitts. "He created news in order to cover it," said conservative commentator Russ Limbaugh.

"We found out the whole thing today is a setup," Limbaugh added.

A setup to do what? Tell the truth? A Pentagon spokesman huffed that the meeting was "intended for soldiers to have dialogue with the secretary" and that no one should have "interfered with that opportunity, whatever the intention."

Hey, you want dialogue? You got dia-

logue! Here's a bigger question: Why should reporters have to resort to asking questions through soldiers in order to get an answer and, one hopes, some action from the top brass and the Bush administration on a long-standing problem like vehicle armor?

Our uniformed men and women in Iraq are not winning about this. They courageously take on dangerous missions every day. Afterward, they want to get home safe. The rest of us should support them with something more substantive than flag-waving. That's not too much to ask.

Clarence Page is a Chicago Tribune columnist.

## Chaplains not in conflict as they minister in battle

My interest in the work of military chaplains goes back to my childhood. The pastor of the church my family attended was an Army chaplain in World War II, having served in the South Pacific.

## Bill Tammeus



Now and then he'd tell stories about it. Something (maybe many things) traumatic must have happened to him in the war, because eventually he became, in author Kurt Vonnegut's apt term, unstick in time. Although he was physically in the present, his mind was back in the

South Pacific in the war, and he could speak of nothing else. He had to be sent to a mental institution. Eventually he left the ministry, emotionally and mentally wounded.

Despite (or maybe because of) this odd exposure to military chaplaincy, I have long admired the people who risk doing this work. I have never served in the military (which, even in the Vietnam era, didn't want someone with my severe near-sightedness and my diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis), but I know that the men and women who put on our nation's uniform need all the emotional and spiritual help they can get, especially on the battlefield.

I liked the way an article in the December issue of Christianity Today described the work such people do: "Chaplains are preachers, teachers and counselors, counted as vital players who quietly help hold the military together."

As much as I'm a stickler for separating church and state, I avoid the argument over whether government pay for chaplains is an unconstitutional breach of that wall. Military people, no matter what religion they follow (and sometimes even if they follow none), need chaplains to help them do their often-terrible work. And if there's a fair system for choosing chaplains of different faiths, I'm happy for the military to pay for that.

But I've always been curious about whether chaplains sometimes feel part of a killing machine. And, if so, how they live with themselves.

Not long ago, John W. Kiser, who grew up in my Kansas City church and now is an Army chaplain, was invited to Princeton Theological Seminary, the Presbyterian in-

stitution from which he got his theological degree, to preach on "Chaplains Day." In that sermon, John answered my question directly and well: "I do not see myself as an advocate of war but as a missionary of the gospel of peace. I am an advocate of soldiers to God, and for God to soldiers, even in the midst of warfare."

"I see war as a sign of a fallen, sinful world," but unfortunately necessary at times."

John has served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait and Iraq. In fact, he was in Iraq the day Saddam Hussein was captured, and we shared e-mail that day about the joy the U.S. military personnel there were feeling.

"This is how the GIs [in World War II] must have felt when they knew Hitler was dead but even better," he wrote me.

"We got him alive."

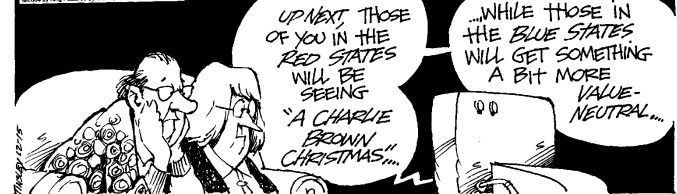
Over the years, the military chaplaincy has broadened to represent the growing spectrum of religions represented among our military. Even chaplaincy insignia have changed to acknowledge the reality that not all soldiers are Christian. Official insignia at one point added Judaism and then Islamic symbols, but now the move is not to single out any particular faith. In a country in which Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, neo-pagans, atheists, agnostics and others are increasingly prominent, that makes sense.

I don't know whether there are atheists in foxholes, but I know chaplains are there. And I'm grateful for their service.

Bill Tammeus is a columnist for The Kansas City (Mo.) Star.

## Mallard Fillmore

Cartoon by John Paulsen Syndicate, Inc. Word rights reserved



BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Horoscope

Venus is packing up her Louis Vuitton bags as she prepares for her dramatic exit from Scorpio's bedroom. It's the end of the affair and the start of an adventure. Our love lives reflect this departure in a subtle shift. Instead of going deep into relationships, we'd rather go wide. Romance now means travel, variety and newness.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 15).** Determined action is easier than ever to take this year as new inspiration amps up your drive to succeed. Romance takes over your life in the new year, and you'll be making decisions based on the best thing for you and loved ones. Lucky love signs are Pisces and Taurus. A career change is in store in the spring, but make your move carefully. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 32, 4, 18 and 27.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The favor (sale, referral or perk) goes to the one who asks for it. You're probably pushing your luck, but how else are you going to know exactly how far your luck extends? If you don't, someone else will.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** A single event has a happy outcome for several people, including you. Even if you have to rearrange your schedule, spend time with your main squeeze. Stolen moments bind you blissfully together.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The attention you get when you apply your talent to otherwise menial tasks is enough to puff up your ego slightly! It's challenging to avoid gossip and yet still be informed as to what your people are up to.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Sure, your involvement in a noble venture is its own reward. Though you're not looking for praise, it would be nice if the people you relate to were as responsible as you are. Be a giver looking for other givers, not takers.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You have an unnumbered channel of expression — the ideas are flowing.

It's part of the reason someone thinks you're sexy! Before making a move, this shy person will wait for a sign from you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll dream of making your living at something new. Talk about your aims with a Libra or Cancer. The more fiscal responsibility you accept, the more money you'll make! Turn in that rebate before it's too late.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Your understanding of complexities is impressive. If someone doesn't "get" you, it's nothing to be personally. Being interested in what others might consider mundane is a sign of intelligence!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Streamline your life by refusing to add extra work and unnecessary possessions. Simplifying things helps you unleash your creative powers, and it's full steam ahead! Your satisfaction comes from doing, not dreaming.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There's a super-sexy glow about you. Many people want to partner with you, and you'll have to make a choice. Keep your social options open, as one could drop off at the last minute.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Scholarly pursuits bring fabulous opportunities. Take a professional gamble, or go with a whim. Spend time with pals who have more money, clout or ambition — their gains rub off on you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You are at a romantic crossroads. Choose the path carefully and with your heart. Make conscious choices so you don't have to repeat mistakes made unconsciously. Loved ones live up to your definition of their roles.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're capable, and everyone can see this, so you receive many requests. Be specific about what you are willing or not willing to give. Nothing relieves stress more than spending time with someone who adores you!

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes

"FOR 'SHOW AND TELL' TOMORROW, I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL ASTOUND AND AMAZE YOU! THIS LITTLE GUY CAN..."



"HAVE YOU ALL HAD YOUR SNACKS?"



## Jump Start



## Zits



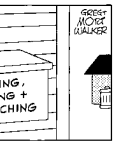
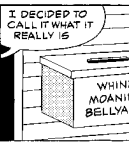
## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



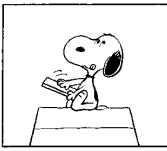
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts

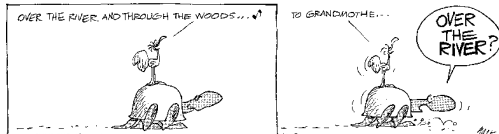




Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



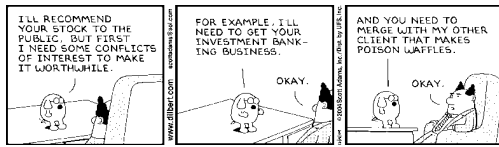
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



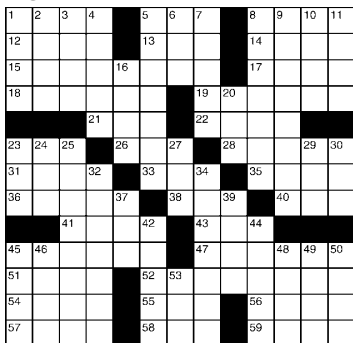
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



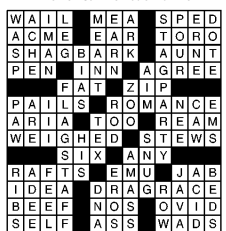
### Across

- 1 One with a handle on the highway system?
- 5 Seat of the Catholic Church
- 8 Basilica section
- 12 Roughly
- 13 Marseilles
- 14 Harbor structure
- 15 Texas city
- 17 Bog material
- 18 Presidential middle name
- 19 Hold protectively
- 21 Pickpocket
- 22 Steer's place
- 23 Monokini's lack
- 26 Fresh
- 28 Dentist's advice
- 31 Soother
- 33 Roulette bet
- 35 Wield the shears
- 36 Asian pepper plant
- 38 Style of jazz
- 40 Take a whack at
- 41 "Sad to say, ..."
- 43 Neither's mate
- 45 Fleet
- 47 Euclalyptus eaters
- 51 Province of Spain
- 52 Futuro's boat
- 54 Chinese dynasty
- 55 Indispensable
- 56 Tactic
- 57 Initial chip
- 58 Brillo rival

### Down

- 1 "The Georgia Peach"
- 2 La — tar pits
- 3 Actor Morales
- 4 "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," e.g.
- 5 Thrive
- 6 A billion years
- 7 Coven member
- 8 Horrifics
- 9 Region of Italy
- 10 Close up tight
- 11 Art Deco VIP
- 16 Chow —
- 20 Lump
- 23 Consumer-ad org.
- 24 "Norma —"
- 25 "Gimme Shelter" speedway
- 27 Symbol of intrigue
- 29 General address?
- 30 Austin Powers, e.g.
- 32 Hodgepodge
- 34 Obstinate sorts
- 37 Young fellow
- 39 Indigent
- 42 What St. Ives wives had
- 44 Freeway
- 45 — mater
- 46 Hold your horses?
- 48 Showgirl "At the Copa"
- 49 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 50 Eye woe
- 53 MGM mascot

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-15

CRYPTOQUIP

T FQLCR UW MKZQC TX

M C'R DTLC QKUC UKZC

MFW. "IK GMFIL WKO, T'U

FDZCFRW QGOXXCR."

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A LUMBERJACK HAS FINISHED WORK, DO YOU RECKON HE MIGHT ENJOY A BIT OF LAGER?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals I



# Tour of duty is enough drama

**Dear Abby:** I am a female member of the military, stationed for the past nine months in Iraq. I recently received a letter from a friend who is having problems in her marriage. She has asked to move in with me when I return to the states in about three months. She says it's only until she gets back on her feet.

There's no way I can let that happen. She has too much drama in her life, and I have grown accustomed to living by myself. When I get home, all I want is peace and quiet. How can I tell her that I don't want to roommate without hurting her feelings?

—Peace in the Middle East

**Dear Peace:** Be direct, and don't go into detail. Tell her that your tour of duty has been stressful — it's the truth — and that when you return home you plan

to live alone. Do not talk about the drama in her life. Talk about the drama that's been going on in your life. You have a right to peace of mind, and your friend should not expect you to straighten her life out for her. After a tour in Iraq, you've done enough.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** I was seeing someone in the apartment complex where I live. It was the maintenance man, "Stan." At first, we kept it quiet because of problems I had with my ex, "Mac." Mac and I have children together and he always finds ways to destroy my new dates — so she less he knows, the better.

But I was falling in love with Stan, so one night we decided to go out in public. Mac found out and had a friend of his tell me Stan could lose his job.

Since I can't afford to move and didn't want Stan to lose his

job, I started avoiding him. It's been six weeks, and I feel I have lost the best thing that ever happened to me. Tell me what to do.

—Grieving in Michigan

**Dear Grieving:** The first thing to do is pick up the phone and contact the office of the building. Without being specific, inquire if there is any formal policy regarding residents fraternizing with staff.

If there is a rule that forbids it, rather than avoiding Stan, I advise you to have a serious chat with him. If you both want to pursue a relationship and moving isn't an option, perhaps he should find a job with another building.

Good maintenance men are hard to find.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Senders can email to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**ETHUC**

©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved

**UPMEL**

**HUDOLS**

[www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com)

**ZEEWEH**

A:

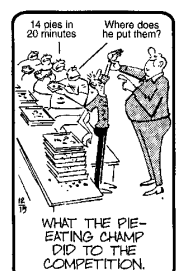
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILD MUSIC INFACT MARTIN

Answer: The hot dog vendor fired his helper because he didn't — CUT THE MUSTARD

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILD MUSIC INFACT MARTIN

Answer: The hot dog vendor fired his helper because he didn't — CUT THE MUSTARD

# Trouble with late-in-life relationship

**Dear Annie:** I am a single, successful professional woman in my 40s. I've never had a boyfriend because I'm always focusing on my work.

Last year, I met "Scott" while returning from a business trip. He sat next to me on the plane.

Scott was traveling with his son, a college student. I was impressed by his warm heart toward his son and invited them to join me for lunch at a restaurant. Ever since, Scott and I have exchanged letters and little presents.

Scott has all the qualities that I expect from a gentleman, but there is a problem. His children appear to be "forever" students and have no plans to graduate. I'm not even sure they have goals. Scott's love for his children is so deep that he doesn't mind their behavior.

I am not comfortable with that. I find it ironic that the same warm relationship that has impressed me so much at the begin-

**Annie's Mailbox**



ning is now an obstacle. Scott is in his late 50s and will soon retire. I am not young either, but as a never-married woman, my dream is to have a prince, not an old widower. I don't want to lose him, but I am...

—Confused in NYC  
**Dear Confused:** If you think of Scott as an "old widower," please do him a favor and cut

him loose. Scott may be a great guy, but he comes with children. As their sole parent, he undoubtedly feels exceptionally protective and responsible for them. If you cannot understand and accept this aspect of his character, you will come to resent him. Searching for a "prince" is inevitably disappointing.

You might consider some additional dating experiences to make your dreams more realistic.

**Dear Annie:** I read with interest the dilemma of "Grosse

Pointe," who asked if there was a support group for the wives of retired husbands.

During the past several years, we have developed a loosely organized group of friends and relatives who refer to themselves as WORMs or Wives of Retired Men. We find potential members every time we go to the supermarket and see a woman being "organized" by her retired husband. We e-mail one another, and each of us tells our best retired story for the month. The one who wins gets to be president the next month.

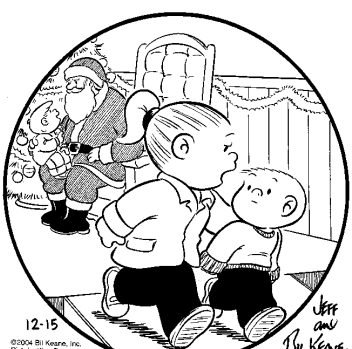
The group gives us a chance to vent, without harming our partners or relationships, and we get a good laugh and know we are not alone.

"Grosse Pointe" should find some friends in the same boat and have lunch once a month.

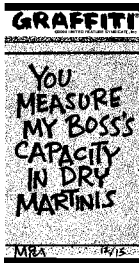
—Another Annie in Idaho

**Dear Idaho:** A good suggestion. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"A cookie? You should've asked for more than that, P.J."



**Dennis the Menace**



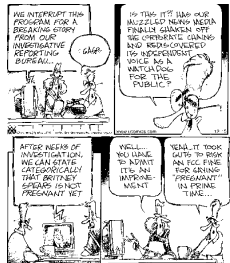
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"...four...five...six...Oh, heck...just turn and shoot."

**Non Sequitur**



















# 2004 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas

[www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org)



Have you  
*Made a World of Difference*  
by contributing to the 2004 CFC-O?

*The time is now.*

**Complete your pledge card today and  
support the causes most important to you.**



**Your 2004 Pledge Card**  
Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas  
**Give through 15 December**



*Make a World of Difference*

Special thanks to Exchange  
New Car Sales and  
DaimlerChrysler for  
donating the FIRST PRIZE,  
and to GEICO for donating  
the SECOND and THIRD  
PRIZES. CFC-O appreciates  
your support.

## CFC-O GIVEAWAY

**SUPPORT THE CFC-O AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES**

**FIRST PRIZE**  
2005 Jeep  
Liberty Renegade



**SECOND PRIZE**  
2 Airline  
Tickets

**THIRD PRIZE**  
\$1,000  
Savings Bond

**GEICO  
DIRECT**

Visit us at **GEICO.com**  
for overseas locations  
and phone numbers.

In the U.S. call  
**1-800-947-AUTO**

**Exchange**  
new car sales  
[www.ENCs.com](http://www.ENCs.com)

The only car-buying program created  
by the military for the military.

Look for us on base.

The 2004 CFC-O is conducting a Giveaway as part of this year's campaign. By completing a pledge card, whether you donate or not, you are eligible to win. Winners will be randomly selected in March 2005 and notified by phone and/or in writing by the CFC-O. Enter now and win!







# Pedro, Mets close to four-year deal

RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Pedro Martinez closed in on a four-year deal with the New York Mets, and the Boston Red Sox resigned themselves Monday to losing the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

"He was a great member of the Red Sox team for seven years, and a certain Hall of Famer," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino told The Associated Press in an e-mail. "He will be missed, and we are disappointed to have lost him to the Mets and the National League."

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, told the Mets he would attempt to work out a deal with them after New York guaranteed a fourth year, a person involved

in the talks said on condition of anonymity.

Mets general manager Omar Minaya expressed confidence about the negotiations with Martinez, but wouldn't detail the discussions.

Minaya then left baseball's winter meetings and returned to New York, and the sides will work by telephone to finalize the contract language.

Martinez helped pitch Boston to its first World Series title since 1918, but Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein refused to increase the team's offer in the past two days.

Martinez, 33, also must pass a physical before the Mets complete the deal.

New York initially offered a \$37.5 million, three-year contract with a \$12.5 million team option for 2008.



Pitcher Pedro Martinez neared reaching a four-year deal with the New York Mets on Monday.

Boston's first proposal was a \$30.5 million, three-year deal that contained a club option for 2008, a baseball official said, also on condition of anonymity. The Mets' offer was thought to be for \$56 million over four years, the official said.

AP Sports writer Jimmy Golen contributed to this report

# Seattle trying to close deal for Sexson as winter meetings end

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Seattle Mariners tried to close a deal with free-agent outfielder Adam Sexson while the Baltimore Orioles also pursued the free-agent slugger Monday at baseball's winter meetings.

A Seattle executive told an agent that the Mariners thought they were close to agreement on a three-year contract with Sexson. An official of another team, who had sought the first baseman said the deal being discussed averaged about \$11 million.

Sexson's agent, Casey Close, said that Seattle and Baltimore were still competing for Sexson.

"Nothing is conclusive at this moment. We'll have to see where this thing goes the next 24, 48 hours," Close said. "It's all speculative as to what people's perspectives are."

With the meetings wrapping up, teams appeared more concerned about setting up the groundwork for future deals than actually finalizing swaps and contracts.

Last Friday night, the Toronto Blue Jays and free-agent third baseman Corey Koskie reached preliminary agreement on a \$17 million, three-year contract.

Carlos Beltrán's agent discussed an All-Star contract with the Yankees. New York general manager Brian Cashman said he hadn't made an offer to Beltrán.

Oakland discussed trading Tim Lincecum to Los Angeles, Boston and St. Louis both went after shortstop Edgar Renteria, Tampa Bay talked with Juan Gonzalez and Anaheim attempted to leap in pitcher Matt Clement.

There's really no movement forward but nothing is known since yesterday," Angels general manager Bill Stoneman said, describing his team's situation in words

## Free agent roundup

that could be applied to the whole industry.

Since the meetings opened Friday, just three trades and three signings have been announced. Arizona reached a preliminary agreement Sunday on a one-year deal with shortstop Royce Clayton worth about \$1.3 million, and Cleveland and second baseman Jose Hernandez signed off Monday on a \$1.8 million, one-year agreement, contingent on a physical.

There was just one trade Sunday, with the Blue Jays sending catcher Kevin Cash to Tampa Bay for right-handed pitcher Chad Gossman. It's not like the old days, when Jack McKeon and Roland Hemond set up shop ready to wheel and deal. In the age of e-mail, cell phones, complex guarantees, language, physicals and insurance, what used to be done with a handshake now needs lawyers and doctors to clinch in.

Even when teams do make deals, they don't announce them until each clause in the letter of agreement has been approved and the X-ray passed.

I remember when I first started going to winter meetings, there were a lot more trades made, especially in the lobby of the hotel," New York Mets general manager Omar Minaya said. "It's just a different day and time."

After meeting with agent Scott Boras, Cashman thought would take a while to work out a deal for Beltrán, likely to get the largest contract of the winter.

"We're barely out of the starting blocks on this," Cashman said.

The key date in the Beltrán talks might be Jan. 8 — the last

day he can re-sign with the Houston Astros.

Anaheim appeared confident of adding pitching.

"We're going to get something done," Stinson said. "We just don't have it done. You have to be patient. When all's said and done, we'll help ourselves in the 'pen. When all's said and done, we'll help ourselves in the rotation."

Oakland manager Ken Macha was prepared to lose Hudson, who with Mark Mulder and Barry Zito combined to form a rotation that kept the Athletics in contention.

"I realize you're trading a pitcher with a .700 win percentage if it's Hudson. I don't see where this situation is any different than moving Jason Giambi or Miguel Tejada," he said. "We rely on our farm system. It seems like every year there's somebody going out. We've been able to survive in every situation quite well."

Dodgers general manager Paul DePodesta said Oakland hadn't agreed to a deal with him.

"My understanding is they're still dealing with a lot of teams. They're exploring their options," he said. "They're not ready to do something yet."

Koskie's deal is subject to an agreement on passing language and the infielder passing a physical, a baseball official familiar with the negotiations said on condition of anonymity.

The 31-year-old Canadian hit .251 with 25 homers and 71 RBIs last season for the Minnesota Twins. He batted .276 with 26 homers and 103 RBIs in 2001, but his games decreased from 153 that year to 140 the following season, 131 in 2003 and 118 this year.

In Toronto, Koskie will take over third base from Eric Hinske, the 2002 AL Rookie of the Year. Toronto either will move Hinske to first base or trade him.

# Woods meets Challenge after disappointing year

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods didn't say anything new about his game.

He said it was great to see the changes in his swing start coming together. He said he no longer had a long checklist of swing thoughts when he stood over the ball.

He said he was close. Only now, Woods has some trophies to prove it.

With perhaps the most complete round of his season, Woods missed only one green and two fairways Sunday to close with a 5-under day and win the Target World Challenge by two shots over Padraig Harrington.

"Every shot I wanted to hit, I hit," Woods said.

He played the final 32 holes at Sherwood Country Club without a bogey and finished at 16-under 268, earning \$1.25 million that he donated to his foundation.

For a guy who couldn't do much right this year — no PGA Tour stroke-play wins for the first time in his career, no majors for the second straight season — Woods can't seem to do anything wrong heading into the short off-season.

It was his second straight stroke-play title, both after the PGA Tour season ended.

Late last month, he won the Dunlop Phoenix on the Japanese



Tiger Woods, right, hugs his father Earl after winning the Target World Challenge on Sunday in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

tour by going wire-to-wire for an eight-shot victory. On Sunday, he quickly erased a two-shot deficit to Colin Montgomerie, pulled ahead of Harrington with a bold drive and perfect pitch, then held off the Irishman by not missing a shot.

He must be excited for the 2005 season to get here.

"I am," Woods said. "After the Tour Championship, and going into it, it was exciting that the things I had been working on started to come together. It's nice not to have a big laundry list out there. I have a key thought here and there and hit a golf shot."

# Bryant accuses Malone of making pass at his wife

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Another Kobe conflict for the Lakers.

Bryant has accused Karl Malone of making a pass at his wife at a game last month.

Talking before Los Angeles' 105-98 victory over Orlando on Sunday night, Bryant said he felt betrayed by a man he considered a friend.

"He was like a mentor, like a brother to me, so when something like this happens, you're upset, you're hurt," Bryant said.

He said he called Malone and told him, "Stay away from my wife. What's wrong with you? How could you?"

Malone was not available for comment Sunday, but agent Dwight Manley said Malone told him he had never made a pass at Bryant's wife, that he was surprised by the accusation and that he then apologized to both Bryant and his wife for any remarks she might have considered inappropriate.

Karl's response to Kobe's comments today is that he's a basketball player and not a soap opera actor and he doesn't intend to be involved in a personal soap opera," Manley said of his client.

Asked if there might have been a misunderstanding, Bryant said, "What he said is what he said. I believe in my heart that it wasn't a misunderstanding."

## Sports briefs

### Indiana captures another NCAA men's soccer title

CARSON, Calif. — Jay Nolly saved two penalty kicks and Indiana won its second straight NCAA Men's College Cup title Sunday, beating UC Santa Barbara 3-2 in a penalty kick shootout.

The teams were tied 1-1 after regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods, forcing the shootout.

The second-seeded Hoosiers won for the 10th time in 11 games and earned their seventh NCAA title, the first under coach Mike Prestig, who replaced Jerry Yeagley this season.

### World Cup win No. 6 for Miller

SESTRIERE, Italy — World Cup leader Bode Miller won a slalom Monday to join Marc Girardelli as the only men to win races in all four disciplines in a season.

The American won for the sixth time in 10 World Cup races by finishing two runs down the 2006 Olympic course in a combined 1 minute, 39.03 seconds.

Silvan Zurbiggen of Switzerland was next, 1.27 seconds behind. Kalle Palander of Finland was third, 1.41 seconds back.

Miller has won slalom, giant slalom, super-G and downhill races in a span of just 16 days.











# It's tighter than expected, but Eagles win

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Tights game? No. Tight game? Yes.

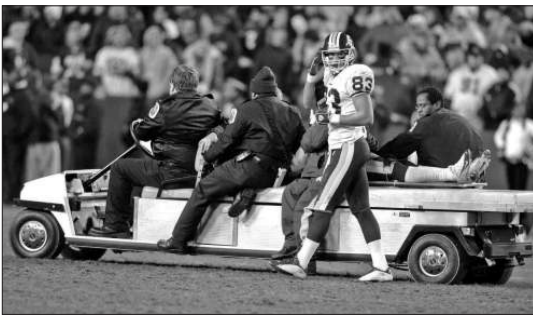
With some of the focus on coach Andy Reid's possible future spandex practice attire, the Philadelphia Eagles got an unexpectedly stiff challenge from the Washington Redskins on Sunday night before emerging with a 17-14 victory.

The Eagles (12-1) won their fifth straight, the other four by 21 points or more. They also had beaten every NFC team they'd played this season by at least 10 — until Sunday.

"You're not going to be able to go out and click on all cylinders all the time," said safety Brian Dawkins, who made a late game-saving interception. "There's going to be struggles sometimes. We're trying to build something special, and these games help us because more than likely it's going to be like this in the playoffs."

The Eagles, who clinched the NFC East title two weeks ago, secured a first-round bye earlier Sunday when Atlanta beat Oakland. The victory also moved Reid ahead of Washington's Joe Gibbs into first place in winning percentage among active coaches. Reid's record is 68-34 (.667), ahead of Hall of Fame coach Gibbs' 144-74 (.661).

The tense finish left no room in



Washington's James Thrash (83) watches as teammate Shawn Springs is carted off the field with a concussion after being blocked by Philadelphia Eagles fullback Josh Parry during the fourth quarter Sunday night.

the locker room for any jocularity over Reid and his black spandex tights. Reid has promised to wear the tights if Terrell Owens catches 15 touchdown passes this season, but Owens remained at 14 after being held to six catches for 46 yards. He also lost a fumble at the Redskins 8 in the first half.

"It was just one of those games where it doesn't come out as crisp

as you want on both sides of the ball, but hey, we're coming out of here 12-1," said quarterback Donovan McNabb, who completed 21 of 38 passes for 260 yards with a TD and an interception.

The Redskins fell to 4-9, assuring Gibbs of a losing record in his comeback season. His only losing mark in his first 12-year stint in Washington was 7-9 in 1988.

Washington entered the game with faint playoff hopes, but players afterward sounded as though they were happy with the moral victory and the momentum it could build for next year.

"They won the game, but they respect us," tackle Chris Samuels said.

The Redskins had a chance to win with the ball at the Eagles 27 inside the last 2 minutes, but

Patrick Ramsey threw into double coverage trying to hit Chris Cooley in the back corner of the end zone. Dawkins and Lit Sheppard had the play covered, and Dawkins managed to stay in-bounds while cradling the ball with 1:46 to play.

"I saw the ball go up," Dawkins said. "And I was just thinking to myself, 'Make sure you catch the ball.'"

Ramsey went 29-for-42 for 251 yards for the Redskins, and Laveranese Coles caught 12 passes for 100 yards despite a chronic toe injury that kept him out of practice for most of the week.

Washington was hurt by 12 penalties for 137 yards. Mike Sellers was whistled for three personals, all on special teams.

The game was marred by several injuries. Eagles linebacker Jason Short broke a leg and is out for the season. Redskins cornerback Shawn Springs was taken off on a backboard with a concussion, the result of a clean blind-side block by fullback Josh Parry. Springs was hospitalized as a precaution but will be OK, according to Gibbs.

The Eagles, already without defensive linemen Derrick Burgess and Jerome McDouglas, had three more injured in the first half.

Kevin Kearse hurt his neck and limped off twice with an ankle injury, but he kept coming back.

Hollis Thomas dislocated his left elbow and will be re-examined Monday. Corey Simon had back spasms and didn't return.

## NFL SCORES, FROM PAGE 34

### Eagles 17, Redskins 14

Philadelphia 7 0 10 0-17

Washington 7 0 9 7-14

Was.—Portis 5 run (Lilalk kick), 14-14.  
Phi.—Smith 2 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 12-10.

#### Third Quarter

Phi.—FG Akers 38, 10-13.

Phi.—Levens 1 run (Akers kick), 25.

#### Fourth Quarter

Was.—Portis 2 run (Lilalk kick), 12-24.

A-90.089.

First downs Phi 11 Wash 19

Total Net Yards Phi 212 Wash 152

Rushes-yards Phi 17-67 Wash 25-88

Passing Phi 2-26 Wash 2-24

Punt Returns Phi 5-31 Wash 3-16

Kickoff Returns Phi 3-45 Wash 4-137

Interceptions Ret. Phi 0-0 Wash 1-10

Comp.-Att.-Int. Phi 21-31-2 Wash 2-10-1

Sacked-Yards Lost Phi 2-15 Wash 0-0

Punts Phi 7-431 Wash 9-409

umbles-Losses Phi 5-1 Wash 1-0

Time of Possession Phi 26:03 Wash 32:57

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Philadelphia: Westbrook 6-29,

O'Connell 1-10, Westbrook 1-10, Cooley 1-23,

Smith 2-12, Levens 1-13, Mitchell 1-2. Wash-

ington: Portis 5-28, Cooley 1-10, Cooley 1-23,

4-25, Portis 4-22, Thrash 2-22, Betts 1-16.

Missed field goals—Philadelphia: Akers 38

(50). Washington: Lilalk 39 (30).

# San Francisco returns to proven formula

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — The San Francisco 49ers know how to win in the NFL. Take the game into overtime and have Todd Peterson kick the winner.

Oh, and make sure the opponent is Arizona.

The 49ers gave coach Dennis Erickson his second victory in 13 games on Sunday, by the exact same score and against the same opponent, as the first.

The 49ers blew a 25-point lead, but regrouped to win the game 31-28 on Peterson's 31-yard field goal with 8:38 left in overtime.

Afterward, Erickson shut down any talk about reports that his job is in jeopardy.

"I'm not going to answer any questions about rumors that are out there and meetings and all the different things," Erickson said.

"I'm not going to waste your time or mine talking about rumors."



San Francisco's Maurice Hicks (43) picks up some his 139 rushing yards against the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday. The 49ers won 31-28.

On Oct. 10, visiting Arizona blew a 16-point lead with 5 minutes to go in regulation and lost in overtime on Peterson's 32-yarder.

"It's amazing," Cardinals quarterback Josh McNabb said. "It's a funny feeling for that to happen. For the tables to be turned and to be the ones to come back, and not to seal the deal. It hurts. We needed this game."

Ken Dorsey and Maurice Hicks, starting in place of injured quarterback Tim Rattay and running back Kevin Bartow, made the big plays for San Francisco (2-11) — which had a 28-3 lead early in the third quarter.

Dorsey threw for the first three

touchdowns of his two-year NFL career, two of them to Cedrick Wilson.

"I felt like I did some really good things," said Dorsey, who played despite a stomach ache.

"In the second half, I got a little too tentative. I've just got to remember to keep doing what got us there."

Hicks carried 34 times for 139 yards and a touchdown. His runs of 7 and 17 yards set up Peterson's winning kick.

The biggest play of that drive, though, came on third-and-17 from the San Francisco 44, when Dorsey threw 19 yards to Wilson.

"He drilled it in there," Erickson said. "It was a well-executed

play. Really, it wasn't defended that well, and we were just able to put it in there."

Wilson called it "the best play that we've made in a long time."

Hicks, who went undrafted and was with the Scottish Claymores of NFL Europe last season, played the fourth quarter and overtime with bruised ribs.

"I couldn't see myself coming out because they needed me at a tough time," he said.

McCown, back at quarterback for Arizona (4-9) after being benched for three games, directed three second-half touchdown drives. Neil Rackers' 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds to go sent the game into overtime.

McCown went 26-for-44 for a career-best 307 yards with one interception but no touchdowns. Coach Dennis Green said McCown "relayed the game well." However, McCown doesn't know if he showed that he deserves to be "the" quarterback for Arizona, which has lost four in a row and is playing as hard as I can. You measure this thing by wins and losses, and we lost today."

"That's not for me to decide," he said. "I'll can do it or go out and play as hard as I can. You measure this thing by wins and losses, and we lost today."

Emmitt Smith, who missed one game with a sore left big toe, capped Arizona's last T.D. drive with an 8-yard run and McCown ran for the 2-point conversion to cut it to 28-25 with 2:40 to play.

**New Gamer Laptop**

with AMD 64 processor!!!

LED TV's, MP3 Players, Digital Cameras

and much more with today's monthly payments

No Down Payment Needed!!!!

Get your Christmas shopping done early!!!

www.militarycomputers.us

or www.militaryyoustore.net

Play the

NFL

Challenge

WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes

and on Oconus.com



# t's curtains for Jets after Bettis comes on

## Steelers finally put Jets away as veteran shines in 4th quarter

By ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Just like the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles before them, the New York Jets left Pittsburgh frustrated and confused after losing to perhaps the most surprising Steelers team in franchise history.

There was one difference: The Jets acted as if they wouldn't mind coming back. Unlike their earlier routs of New England and Philadelphia, the Steelers (12-1) didn't overwhelm the Jets (9-4) during a tightly played 17-6 victory Sunday. It was 3-3 until early in the fourth quarter, when Jerome Bettis' running and passing made the difference in Pittsburgh's team record-tying 11th consecutive victory.

Maybe that's why Curtis Martin is looking forward to a possible return visit to his hometown during the playoffs, even if an exasperating day filled with penalties and failed opportunities slowed the Jets' drive to the postseason.

"I hope we come back here. I hate losing, period, but I especially hate losing here," Martin said. "I'd love to have a second chance."

Bettis is making the most of his second chance with Pittsburgh.

Demoted to the bench last season and rarely used early this season except during short-yardage situations, he carried the Steelers with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jerome Tuman and a 12-yard TD run.



Jerome Bettis (36) ran for a touchdown and passed for one Sunday in pacing Pittsburgh to a 17-6 defeat of the New York Jets. Bettis also surpassed 13,000 career rushing yards.

On a day both Martin and Bettis surpassed the 13,000-yard career rushing mark, Martin said afterward, "I tip my hat to him" — and it wasn't because Bettis was wearing a brand-new AFC North championship cap.

Bettis is proving to be one of the Steelers' most valuable players. He had four

consecutive 100-yard games while subbing for injured Duce Staley, then replaced by ineffective Staley (16 carries, 51 yards) Sunday to key Pittsburgh's decisive fourth quarter.

Bettis' day was so productive that he hardly minded that Martin outstayed him 72-57 to overtake him for fifth place in

NFL career rushing. Martin has 13,046 yards to Bettis' 13,037. Only four others have reached 13,000 yards, and it was the first time in NFL history two did so in the same game.

"Really, Jerome won the game by himself," wide receiver Hines Ward said.

Chad Pennington blamed the loss on himself following a mistake-filled day in which he threw three interceptions — only one fewer than he had all season — and the Jets drew 12 penalties for 84 yards in the first half. They began the game as the NFL's second-least penalized team.

"We're going to go as far as I take the team. That's the way the NFL works," said Pennington, who was 17-for-31 for 189 yards. "I'm better than I played. There were just too many errant throws and bad reads. I didn't manage the game very well."

Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger could have said much the same thing, at least until the fourth quarter. He started 3-for-11, but completed six of his final eight throws to finish 9-for-19 for 144 yards.

"When the game was there, in the fourth quarter, he never really fretted," coach Bill Cowher said.

If nothing else, that might explain how a Steelers team that is virtually unchanged from last season, except for adding Roethlisberger and Staley, is 12-1 — matching the best 13-game record in team history. They can become the first Steelers team to win 12 in a row if they beat the New York Giants (5-8) on Saturday.

"They made the plays, and that's what good teams do, what championship teams do," Jets coach Herman Edwards said. "I played better than us in the fourth quarter."

## San Diego's defense comes to the rescue

By BERNIE WILSON  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson fumbled at a critical time. Drew Brees had two passes intercepted for the first time in three months.

The San Diego Chargers' defense got them all back, plus one more.

"When you're winning, the momentum goes to your side," linebacker Donnie Edwards said. "The bounces tend to go your way."

He should know. Edwards had two interceptions for his hometown Chargers on Sunday, returning the second 30 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 4:09 left to help the Chargers beat Tampa Bay 31-24 for their seventh straight victory.

The Chargers (10-3) moved closer to their first playoff berth in nine seasons. They've won 10 games for the first time since their 1994 Super Bowl season, a huge turnaround from their recent misery of losing at least 10 games five times in the last seven seasons.

"I've been playing nine years and to get 10 wins is awesome," Edwards said. "These times don't come around too often, so take advantage and keep on going."

It was the third straight week that the defense helped seal a vic-

tory and the second straight week the Chargers had four takeaways. They intercepted three passes off Brian Griese, and the quarterback also lost a fumble.

"Any time you have three turnovers, the defense is going to have to get the ball back for you," said Tomlinson, who gained 131 yards on 25 carries and scored on a 7-yard run that gave San Diego a 21-14 lead late in the third quarter.

But he also fumbled at the end of a 17-yard run with 8 minutes left and Tampa Bay's Deweyne White recovered at the San Diego 37.

Griese hit standout rookie Michael Clayton on a 20-yard touchdown pass with 6:53 left to tie it 21-21. Clayton, who appeared to push off cornerback Quentin Jammer, tipped the ball to himself with his right hand.

Clayton was the intended receiver on the pass Edwards picked off for the TD.

"That was huge," said Edwards, who ran over to the stands and gave the ball to an aunt who helped him growing up in a lower-middle-class neighborhood in National City, just south of downtown San Diego.

Griese made a desperation attempt to tackle Edwards, but ended up on his back as the linebacker ran into the end zone and raised both arms in celebration.



San Diego's Donnie Edwards had two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown, and also had 16 tackles Sunday in the Chargers' 31-24 victory over Tampa Bay.

Edwards said he knew the Buccaneers were going to throw a quick pass.

"I don't think he ever saw me," Edwards said.

"It's a shame, because it kind of wasted a good effort by our team," Griese said. "I feel bad."

A few minutes after Edwards' interception, the Chargers got the ball back when linebacker Steve Foley hit Griese while he was scrambling, forcing a fumble that Shaun Phillips recovered. Rookie Nate Kaeding sealed it with a 40-yard field goal with 2:06 left.

## Winning ugly just fine for struggling Denver

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

DENVER — The star tailback got benched and got his job back, all in one game. The streaky quarterback threw two interceptions, made an obscene gesture to his own fans and still walked out of it with a victory.

It was a strange, unsettling afternoon in Denver, where the Broncos eked out a 20-17 win over the woeful Miami Dolphins on Sunday despite the travails of fumble-prone Reuben Droughns and hotheaded Jake Plummer.

Tatum Bell ran for 123 yards after Droughns fumbled twice early, only to relinquish the job back to Droughns after he sprained his shoulder. Jason Elam kicked a 50-yard field goal with 2:50 left to bail the Broncos (8-5) out of the whole mess and keep them in the playoff hunt.

"We definitely needed that game to get some confidence back, get some swagger back," Elam said. "It helps us feel good about ourselves."

Or did it? Plummer's first interception was greeted by boos — not the first time the embattled quarterback has heard them in season-plus in Denver. He responded by reaching his hand behind his head and making an obscene gesture to a fan after he sat down on the bench.

The scene was caught by TV cameras.

"One guy got into my head a little bit, it shouldn't be that way," Plummer said. "I'm an emotional guy. I apologize. ... I would never direct that at our fans. We have the greatest fans in the league."

Playing before an announced sellout crowd that included nearly 5,100 no-shows, the Broncos snapped a two-game losing streak and stayed tied with Baltimore for the AFC's final playoff spot. But they hardly looked like playoff material on this, a day in which they got pushed to the edge by one of the worst teams in the league.

"We fought," was about the best thing coach Mike Shanahan could say about the win. "We just had to keep on fighting until you win it, and that is what I was proud of."

The Dolphins (2-11) weren't out of it until A.J. Feeley threw an incomplete to Derritus Thompson on fourth-and-3 with :59 left on a play which Broncos corner Kelly Herndon appeared to be draped all over Thompson before the ball arrived.

"We should have had the catch," Miami coach Jim Bates said. "The guy was wrapped on his back. The ball was thrown right there."

Plummer finished 16-of-30 for 219 yards.



# Colts pass first 'test' in a month

BY MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Tony Dungy thought things were coming too easily for the Indianapolis Colts.

Each week they would score 40 points, Peyton Manning would throw for a handful of touchdowns and their starters would leave early in the fourth quarter as the Colts produced another rout.

Dungy believed his players needed a test, and they got one against Houston.

"It was a tough game, one that was hard fought, and I think we needed one of those," the Colts coach said Monday, a day after Indianapolis held on for a 23-14 victory.

The Colts got away from their usual script in Houston, but still won their sixth straight and clinched the AFC South title for the second straight year.

It looked as if Sunday's game would be the same as recent games when Manning threw two touchdowns in the first 12 minutes. But Houston forced a change.

The Colts (10-3) didn't score another TD, leaving Manning with 46 TD passes, two shy of Dan Marino's NFL record. Edgerin James, who had been averaging 4.9

yards per carry, needed 28 rushes at Houston to top 100 yards, but still took over the NFL lead in yards rushing (1,385) and yards from scrimmage (1,814).

Mike Vanderjag kicked three field goals, matching his season high, and the defense finally had to snuff out a challenge.

No, it wasn't pretty, but Dungy believes it will help the Colts prepare for their stretch run.

"It was more about getting back in the feel of playing a full game, needing some critical third-down conversions, making field goals," Dungy said. "It had probably been nine or 10 weeks since Mike had a critical field goal."

While Dungy appreciated the Colts' rebound from their first two-game losing streak since 2002 and endured little stress in four straight victories by an average margin of 31 points, the biggest decision he'd faced in a month was when to take out Manning & Co.

That's not likely to be the case the next three games — or in those that follow.

The Colts host Baltimore this week and San Diego next week. They finish the regular season at Denver, and could face a rematch against any of the three in the first round of the playoffs.

Houston not only tested the Colts, but also put them in situations that could become routine the rest of this season.

"Sometimes you want to go out there and blow people out and continue to have the 50, 60-point games," Dwight Freney said Sunday. "Sometimes having those close games, where it comes down to the fourth quarter, helps you build something for the playoffs."

That's where Dungy focused his attention Monday.

Dungy said he couldn't remember any season in which his team had clinched a playoff spot so early and that the focus now needed to be on gaining momentum.

But even if Indianapolis wins out, a nine-game winning streak might not be enough to gain a first-round bye. New England and Pittsburgh are 12-1 and hold a two-game lead over the Colts, who will at least host a first-round playoff game.

So, Dungy and his players are now preparing themselves for the postseason, and Sunday's struggle marked the start.

"I'm big on referring back to prior situations, especially with our younger players," Manning said after the win. "In close games, I'll tell the guys 'Hey, we've been here before, against Houston.'"

Dungy was looking for something else.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes in the Colts 23-14 win over the Texans.

He wanted to see how his team responded to adversity, and after reviewing the film, Dungy gave his team a passing mark. "The guys know they can do that," Dungy said. "But this game was more like what we'll face in the next five or six weeks, and we needed that."

## Browns' Garcia out for season

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia will miss the rest of the season after tearing a knee ligament during Sunday's loss to the Buffalo Bills.

Garcia's injury is another blow to the battered Browns (3-10), who have lost seven straight games and had a wave of injuries.

Garcia is the 17th player and eighth starter to be placed on the injured reserve list.

Garcia was hurt in the third quarter after taking over for rookie Luke McCown. Garcia, who

missed the previous two games with a sprained shoulder, lasted just three plays before injuring his knee while fumbling as he was sacked.

With McCown struggling and Kelly Holcomb still nursing cracked ribs, the Browns may need to sign a quarterback.

Garcia's injury ends a disappointing first season in Cleveland for the former three-time Pro Bowler in San Francisco, who signed a four-year, \$25 million free agent contract with Browns in March.

Since training camp, Garcia has been publicly critical of Cleveland's offensive system and the team's inability to adjust to his strengths. He finished the season 144-for-252 for 1,731 yards and 10 TDs and nine interceptions.



Jeff Garcia

## Injury could keep QB Palmer on bench

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Carson Palmer's knee injury isn't serious, but it could keep him on the sideline.

Tests found no tear in Palmer's anterior cruciate ligament on Monday. The Cincinnati Bengals quarterback was still on crutches, and he wore a brace on the left knee that he strained during a 35-28 loss at New England.

Coach Marvin Lewis didn't rule out the possibility of Palmer playing Sunday against Buffalo, delaying a decision until midweek.

Palmer was listed as questionable.

"Let's wait and see what happens," Lewis said.

Palmer's injury could clear the way for the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year to regain the job temporarily. Jon Kitna hadn't taken a snap until Palmer got hurt on Sunday.

Kitna hopes it doesn't come to that.

"It would be really tough for me," Kitna said Monday. "I really want to see Carson finish the year. I know how important that is as a quarterback to go out and finish what you started."

Palmer has come into his own lately, leading an offense that has piled up 450 yards for three consecutive games, a franchise first.

He threw a career-high four touchdowns passes in a 58-48 victory over Cleveland, then led a fourth-quarter comeback for a 27-26 win in Baltimore.

The 2003 Heisman Trophy winner was 18-for-24 for 202 yards and two touchdowns when he was hurt in the third quarter at New England. Richard Seymour tack-

led him by the legs on a pass, twisting his left knee.

Looking rusty on his first series of the season, Kitna threw an end zone interception that stalled the Bengals' comeback from a 35-14 deficit. His 27-yard touchdown pass to Kelley Washington got the Bengals to within seven points with 3:50 left, but the Patriots ran out the clock.

Overall, Kitna was 9-for-13 for 126 yards.

Last season as a rookie, Palmer watched from the sideline while Kitna took every snap, led the Bengals to an 8-8 finish and won the comeback player award.

Lewis decided to elevate Palmer in the offseason, and Kitna agreed to stay on as the backup and act as a tutor.

"I really had hoped that I'd played my last snap here," Kitna said. "I don't want to go in under these circumstances."

Lewis doesn't have to worry about a drop-off in the offense if Palmer can't play. Kitna hasn't taken many snaps in practice, but figures he could get up to speed in a week.

"I'm not worried about that," he said. "I'm too old to get rusty."

The main difference between the quarterbacks is arm strength. The game plan probably would have fewer long passes if Kitna is throwing them.

"There are some things that would change," Lewis said. "Jon will feel more comfortable and handy with some different things. It will be a little different, but not much."

The loss in New England all but extinguished the Bengals' playoff hopes. They now trail five teams for the two wild card berths, including the Bills (7-6).

## C'mon Get Happy!

Get your Happy Ad in Stripes today!  
Want to hook up with an old friend?  
Send your girlfriend a birthday greeting?  
Or congratulate your friend on a recent promotion?  
Whatever the occasion, book your Happy Ad today in Stars and Stripes!

Check out the details:

1. Email your greeting and digital photo to [classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil](mailto:classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil).
  2. Stars and Stripes reserves the right to edit or reject any Happy Ad.
  3. A one-time \$30 fee for each ad must be prepaid prior to publication.
- You may opt to use a credit card or you may visit the nearest Stars and Stripes' circulation office and pay by check.



• Ads will run in the classified section.



Welcoming Baby Rachel!

Create a memory for life!

Email [classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil](mailto:classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil) or call DSN 229-3276

Your Hometown Newspaper  
STARS AND STRIPES





Green Bay Packers defenders Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, Grady Jackson (75) and Nick Barnett (56) wrap up Detroit Lions running back Kevin Jones (34) during the fourth quarter Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.

# Packers had down Lions

## Detroit blows 13-point lead, falls back in NFC North

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre always sees it that the Detroit Lions' flight home over Lake Michigan isn't short and sweet.

The Lions blew a 13-point half-time lead and a big chance to get back into the playoff picture in the muddled NFC North on Sunday when they lost 16-13 to Green Bay in a game in which they only trailed for the final 2 seconds.

They sure felt good about their chances of winning in Wisconsin for the first time since 1991, the year before Favre's arrival, when Ahman Green's 79-yard touchdown on a screen pass was negated by a debatable holding call on rookie center Scott Wells in the third quarter with Detroit leading 13-3.

The Packers were backed up to their 13 and starting strong into a flag-snapping 35 mph wind and swirling snow flurries. But Wells shook off the penalty, and nine plays later, Favre split Bracy Walker and Keith Smith for a 23-yard touchdown throw to Donald Driver.

Ryan Longwell added fourth-quarter field goals of 28 and 23 yards as the Packers (8-5) overtook Minnesota, who lost at home to Seattle, atop the NFC North. The Lions fell to 5-8.

Wells, who started for Grey Rugeamer (ankle), thought his block on weakside linebacker James Davis that sprung Green through the second wave of defenders was legal.

"I was running down the field. I was probably on the other 30-yard line. So, I threw my arms up in the air for the touchdown and I turned around and saw the flag," Wells said.

He was disappointed but not dispirited.

"I'm kind of laid back so I kind of laughed it off. I disagreed with the call. I thought it was a good block," Wells said. "It's frustrating any time they take points off the board, especially when they call your number out for it. But luckily we were able to keep the drive going and put some points on the board."

Although Longwell would win it with his 43rd straight conversion inside 40 yards, coach Mike Sherman said the resolve his of-

fense showed after the holding penalty was the key to the comeback.

"To be able to overcome that devastation, because we're struggling and we're struggling and we're struggling, and to be able to have it and then take it away, I think it shows the determination of our guys to keep fighting," Sherman said. "I thought that was a telling moment."

Favre led Green Bay back from a 13-0 halftime deficit by completing 16 of 21 passes for 160 yards in the second half after going just 3-for-15 for 28 yards in the first half.

Snow flurries dampened the field into what Longwell called a "swampy mess" and swirling wind wreaked havoc on passes, punts and long snaps and caused a slew of drops.

"I've always said there is nothing routine about a field goal and today there was nothing routine about extra points," Longwell said.

Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington completed just 5 of 22 passes for 47 yards as the Lions relied on rookie running back Kevin Jones, who rushed 33 times for 156 yards and a touchdown.

# Panthers in payoffs?

## It's not so far-fetched after win over Rams

BY JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Don't mention records, scores or what-if scenarios to the Carolina Panthers. They have no interest in what it will take to make the playoffs.

So focused on their one-game-at-a-time philosophy, the Panthers had no idea their 20-7 victory over St. Louis on Sunday put them in a tie for the final NFC wild-card berth.

"The only scoreboard we watch is ours," defensive tackle Brentson Buckner said. "If we don't control our scoreboard, the rest of it doesn't matter."

Right now, Carolina (6-7) is certainly in control.

The Panthers, playing nearly as well as they did during their run to the Super Bowl last season, won their fifth straight to climb into the playoff hunt. They are tied with the Rams (6-7) for the final berth, but own the head-to-head tiebreaker.

It was an unimagineable position after the Panthers opened 1-7 and lost starter after starter to season-ending injuries.

"Look, we don't even have a winning record yet," quarterback Jake Delhomme cautioned. "We are still a ways away."

But they got a lot closer Sunday behind a defense that set a franchise record with six interceptions, three sacks, and a fumble recovery on a muffed punt.

Feeding off the defense, the Panthers got touchdowns from Muhsin Muhammad and Nick Goss and two field goals from John Kasay in a rematch of January's thrilling NFC divisional playoff.

But this one wasn't nearly as dramatic as Carolina's 29-23 win in double overtime, mainly because the teams are totally different than they were in January.

For starters, 10 of Carolina's 22 regulars from that game are either no longer with the Panthers or hurt with injuries. St. Louis (6-7) was without star running back Marshall Faulk, and started 39-year-old Chris Chandler at quarterback because Mark Bulger is hurt.

But the stakes were just as high, at least for Carolina.

"It's a playoff game for us



CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/ART

**Panthers running back Nick Goss (37) leaps over the St. Louis Rams defense for a touchdown in the first quarter of Carolina's 20-7 victory on Sunday.**

every time we go on the field," cornerback Ricky Manning Jr. said. "This is it for us. The hole we put ourselves in, the way out of it is to win every game and keep the season going."

Manning took the first step, intercepting Chandler on the Rams' first series to set up Carolina's first touchdown. It was Manning who set up Carolina's playoff victory, as well, when he ended a St. Louis drive by wrestling the ball away from Torry Holt to give the Panthers possession for their winning drive.

Dan Morgan, back from a three-game absence with a concussion, had two interceptions to tie Manning for the team lead, and Will Witherspoon and rookie Chris Gamble each added a pick.

Morgan had no idea which of the six interceptions meant the most.

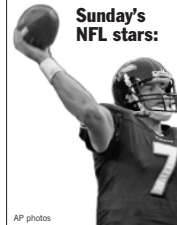
"There were so many, I forgot all of them," he said.

Making his first start in over a year, Chandler wasn't crisp.

But the 17-year veteran still made a handful of athletic plays, including a 52-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce that was negated by a holding call.

Chandler did throw a 75-yard TD pass to Holt at the end of the first quarter, when the Rams converted on third-and-9. Chandler finished 16-for-29 for 243 yards, one touchdown, six interceptions and was sacked three times.

## Sunday's NFL stars:



**Quarterbacks**  
■ Peyton Manning, Colts, was 26-of-33 for 298 yards and two touchdowns, getting within two of Dan Marino's 30-year-old record of 48 TDs in a season by passing over the Tennessee Titans.  
■ Matt Hasselbeck, Seahawks, went 23-of-34 for 231 yards and three touchdowns in a 27-31 win over Minnesota.  
■ Kyle Boller, Ravens, threw for a career-high four touchdowns and 219 yards in a 37-14 rout of the Giants.

## Receivers

■ Donnie Pate, Saints, had 113 yards on five catches, in, over Dallas.  
■ Randy Moss, Vikings, caught four passes for 184 yards and a touchdown, but threw a crucial late interception in a 27-31 loss to the Seahawks.  
■ Darrell Green, Seahawks, had 10 receptions for 135 yards and a touchdown in a 27-31 win over the Vikings after learning in the morning his father had died of

cancer.  
■ Torry Holt, Rams, had 151 yards and a touchdown on six catches in a 20-7 loss to Carolina.

## Running backs

■ Dominick Davis, Texans, had 201 total yards for Houston. He had 23 carries for 156 yards and 20 yards after the catch and caught six passes for 73 yards.  
■ Willis McCalister, Bears, had 105 yards and scored twice in a 37-7 win over Cleveland. It was Cleveland's sixth 100-yard game in eight starts, and the Browns had won six of seven games.  
■ Edgerrin James, Colts, ran for 104 yards on 26 carries, and had seven catches for 54 yards in a 23-14 win over Houston.  
■ Nick Goss, Panthers, ran for 108 yards and a 19-yard TD in a 20-7 win over St. Louis. The sixth-straight running back injury forced him to start. The league now has run for 100 yards or more in four of his last five starts. Rookie Stephen Davis set last season.  
■ Tatum Bell, Broncos, ran for 123

yards and two scores before spraining his shoulder in a 20-17 win over Miami.  
■ Kevin Jones, Lions, ran 33 times for 156 yards and a touchdown in a 16-13 loss to the Packers.  
■ LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers, gained 131 yards on 25 carries and scored on a 7-yard run in a 31-24 win over Tampa Bay.  
■ Maurice Hicks, 49ers, carried 24 times for 139 yards and a touchdown starting in place of Kevin Barlow in a 31-28 overtime win over Arizona.

## Special teams

■ Jason Elam, Broncos, kicked a 50-yard field goal with 2:50 left as Denver beat Miami 20-17.  
■ Brian Lowery, Patriots, kicked a 23-yard field goal with 2 seconds remaining to give the Patriots a 16-13 win over the Lions. It was Lowery's third game-winning field goal in his career.  
■ Todd Peterson, 49ers, kicked a 31-yard field goal with 1:01 left to give San Francisco a 31-28 victory over Arizona.



# Weis will coach Irish ... and Patriots

## Willingham heads back to Pac-10; Stanford hires Pitt coach Harris

The Associated Press

Charlie Weis landed Tyrone Willingham's old job at Notre Dame.

Walt Harris was tapped to take over at Stanford, where Willingham led the Cardinal to the 2000 Rose Bowl.

Meanwhile, Willingham himself was hired by Washington on Sunday as three high-profile head coaching positions were filled and another came open.

Brigham Young also hired a new coach Monday, promoting defensive coordinator Bronco Mendenhall to fill the opening created when Gary Crowton resigned.

Weis said his job as Notre Dame's coach is to raise expectations and win games.

"That's the bottom line in this business," he said Monday at a news conference. "Graduating kids is the first and foremost thing ... Bringing in character kids is important. But it's all about winning games. That's why there's a coaching change."

Weis, the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, graduated from Notre Dame in 1978, although he didn't play football for the Irish.

He agreed to a six-year deal that will pay him a reported \$2 million annually. His hiring ended an awkward two weeks for the Fighting Irish that began with the firing of Willingham.

Willingham's three-year tenure was the shortest of any full-time Notre Dame coach in 70 years. He had three years left on his initial contract, but was let go after going 6-5. Notre Dame had made a tradition of allowing its coaches to at least work through the length of their first contract.

Last week, outgoing Notre Dame president the Rev. Edward Malloy criticized Willingham's firing and expressed concern over a growing trend of schools that are ousting their successful coaches.

Notre Dame took more hits when its first choice to replace Willingham, Utah coach Urban Meyer, instead took the job at Florida.

That sent the Irish searching and eventually looking to Weis, a longtime NFL assistant who has never been a head coach.

The 48-year-old Weis arrived at the school Sunday night, just hours after the Patriots beat Cincinnati in Foxboro, Mass. Within an hour, he met with the players. "As I told the team, one of the problems



Former Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham will return to the Pac-10 as Washington's third head coach in four seasons. He previously coached at Stanford.

is because expectations were not met," Weis said Monday. "You are what you are. And right now that's a 6-5 football team, and that's just not good enough. It's not good enough for me. If you think they hired me to go .500, you've got the wrong guy."

He will stay with New England through the NFL playoffs, juggling both jobs.

Not long before Weis' arrival in South Bend, Ind., Washington announced that it was bringing Willingham back to the Pac-10.

The Huskies, who play the Irish on Sept. 24 in Seattle, are coming off a school-worst 1-10 season and still trying to recover from a messy divorce with former coach Rick Neuheisel before the 2003 season.

Keith Gilbertson replaced Neuheisel, who was fired for gambling on NCAA basketball, but couldn't keep Washington from sinking to the bottom of the Pac-10. Gilbertson stepped down after the season. The Huskies made initial contact with Willingham while he was still employed by Notre Dame, and when he was fired he became a prime candidate.

"I am excited about being here," Willingham said.

Willingham was 21-15 in three seasons



Charlie Weis leaves the Joyce Center on Sunday ahead of Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White. Weis signed a six-year contract to coach the Fighting Irish, but will continue to serve as the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator throughout the NFL playoffs.

at Notre Dame — but after an 8-0 start in 2002, the Irish went 13-15. Before going to Notre Dame, Willingham coached Stanford from 1995 through, with a record of 44-36-1.

Harris will try to get Stanford back after three unsuccessful seasons' under Buddy Teevens, who replaced Willingham in 2002.

Stanford was looking for a coach with a strong offensive background after the team struggled to score during Teevens' tenure.

Stanford was 4-7 the past two seasons, losing its last five games this year.

Harris was Ohio State's quarterbacks coach in 1995-96 before going to Pitt. He has led the Panthers to three straight seasons with eight or more victories.

He has ties to the Bay Area. He grew up in South San Francisco and attended college at Pacific in Stockton.

Stanford athletic director Ted Leland also hired Harris to coach Pacific in 1989.

Harris' eighth season with Pittsburgh has been one of his most successful. The Panthers started 2-2 and there was talk that Harris, in the last year of his contract, would be replaced as season's end.

But the Panthers won six of their final seven to earn their first spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Harris and AD Jeff Long met last week but couldn't agree on a contract extension, so the coach resigned Sunday.

Pitt plays Utah in the Fiesta Bowl in Jan. 1, and Harris is expected to coach the team.

## Four Trojans selected to AP All-America team

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart and three of his Southern California teammates made The Associated Press All-America team announced Monday.

Tailback Reggie Bush, defensive lineman Shaun Cody and linebacker Matt Grothe joined their quarterback on the first team. Bush, a Heisman finalist, was picked as the all-purpose player.

Leinart has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns this season, leading the top-ranked Trojans (12-0) to a perfect regular season and becoming USC's sixth Heisman trophy winner.

Oklahoma tailback Adrian

Peterson, the Heisman runner-up who has run for 1,843 yards and 15 TDs, is the first freshman AP All-American since North Carolina cornerback Dre' Bly in 1996.

Peterson was joined on the first team by Sooners tackle Jamall Brown.

They'll line up against Leinart and USC in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

Oklahoma quarterback Jason White, a first-team All-American and the Heisman Trophy winner last season, was a third-team selection Monday. Utah quarterback Alex Smith was the second-team QB.

USC also had third-teamers in defensive tackle Mike Patterson and linebacker Lofa Tatupu for a total of six players on the three All-America teams. Sec-

ond-ranked Oklahoma (12-0) had five, also putting wide receiver Mark Clayton on the second team and defensive end Dan Cody on the third team.

Michigan matched USC for the most first-team All-Americans with four: wide receiver Brayton Edwards, center David Basa and defensive backs Marlin Jackson and Ernest Shazor.

"Whenever you have the best defensive back in the country on your team and you get to go against him every day, it only gets you better," Edwards said.

Jackson and Edwards were among 20 seniors on the first team, and two of those who decided to delay an NFL career and return to college for their final seasons.

"It was exceptionally fun," said

Edwards, who caught 87 passes for 1,221 yards. "I believe this whole season has definitely paid off for me."

Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson and Florida State tackle A.J. Barron both returned to school and repeated as All-Americans.

Georgia defensive end David Pollack, LSU defensive end Marcus Spears, Miami cornerback Antrell Rolle and Auburn corner Carlos Rogers all considered bypassing their final years of eligibility and went on to become All-Americans.

California running back J.J. Arrington, second in the nation in rushing at 167.7 yards per game, and Purdue wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield, who caught 82 passes, 1,014 yards and 15 touchdowns, made the AP first team.

Virginia and Ohio State joined Oklahoma as teams with two first-team All-Americans: Guard Elton Brown and tight end Heath Miller made it from the Cavaliers, and linebacker A.J. Hawk and kicker Mike Nugent were picked from the Buckeyes.

Tennessee's Michael Munoz made the first team, outdoing his dad. Anthony Munoz was never an AP All-American when he was a star offensive lineman for USC from 1976-79.

Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James and Michigan State punter Brandon Fields completed the first team.

The Big Ten had the most first-teamers with nine. The Pac-10 had five, followed by the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference with four each. The Big 12 had three.



## SPORTS



Leinart, three USC teammates selected first team All-America; Michigan also has four on team, Page 39

# 4 score with 3 games to go

## Steelers, Pats, Colts, Falcons win to lock up division titles

The Associated Press

**F**our teams took the first big step toward the Super Bowl by clinching division titles, joining the Philadelphia Eagles, who already wrapped up the NFC East crown.

Defending Super Bowl champion New England won the AFC East when it beat Cincinnati 35-28 and the New York Jets lost at Pittsburgh 17-6.

Pittsburgh's victory also earned the Steelers the AFC North title.

Indianapolis captured the AFC South with a 23-14 victory at Houston, and Atlanta took the NFC South when it beat Oakland 35-10.

The Steelers and Patriots, though, still have a lot on the line in the last three weeks — home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Both are 12-1, but Pittsburgh holds the tiebreaker because it beat New England.

"Everybody keeps waiting for us to have a letdown, but each week someone steps up and makes big plays," Steelers receiver Hines Ward said after Pittsburgh won its 11th straight with rookie Ben Roethlisberger as the starting quarterback.

Roethlisberger was only 9-for-19 for 144 yards but Jerome Bettis made up for it by throwing for a touchdown and running for another, both in the fourth quarter.

"Really, Jerome won the game by himself," Ward said.

The Patriots got key plays from quarterback Tom Brady (two touchdown passes), their defense (two red zone turnovers) and running back Corey Dillon against Dillon's old team, the Bengals, to get to the playoffs for the third time in four years, but Dillon's first time in eight years.

"We are excited about [the division title]," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said. "We will enjoy this victory for a day or two."

T.J. Duckett set a Falcons team record by rushing for four touchdowns to secure just the third division crown in Atlanta's history, but there was little celebration.

"This is exciting, but it's just a step on the way to the big prize," defensive lineman Travis Hall said Sunday. "What we really want to do as a team is get to the Super Bowl — and win."

In Houston, the Texans allowed Peyton Manning only two touchdown passes — he still needs two to tie Dan Marino's record 48 — but they couldn't keep the Colts from winning their second straight AFC South title.

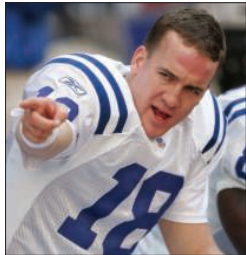
"We got what we wanted today, and that was to win," Manning said.

■ See game coverage on Pages 35-38



AP photos

Clockwise from above: ■ Steelers running back Jerome Bettis celebrates a fourth quarter touchdown run against the Jets. Bettis also threw for a fourth-quarter score as Pittsburgh won the AFC North with the victory. ■ Colts QB Peyton Manning (18) threw two early touchdown passes, but that was it, leaving him two short of Dan Marino's record 48. Still, Indianapolis won the AFC South for a second straight year by beating the Texans. ■ Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel (22) is congratulated by teammate Rodney Harrison after Samuel returned an interception 34 yards for a touchdown in their victory over Cincinnati. That, coupled with the Jets loss to the Steelers, secured the AFC East for New England. The Patriots and Steelers are tied atop the AFC with 12-1 records. ■ Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) and running back T.J. Duckett exchange high fives in the second half. Duckett ran for four TDs as Atlanta wrapped up the NFC South by whipping the Raiders.



## Weis, Willingham, Harris fill high-profile vacancies

Page 39

